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Shadow COMICS

10¢

THE SPIDER BOY
The Shadow's Weirdest Story



52 PAGES
BEST BUY IN COMICS

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

A STORY OF HORROR IN WHICH....

THE SHADOW

IN REALITY, LAMONT CRANSTON, AND HIS
FRIEND, MARGOT LANE, FIND THEMSELVES
CAUGHT IN A WEB OF HORROR SPUN BY THE...

SPIDER BOY



ADAPTED FROM A SHADOW RADIO STORY

ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED
SOMEONE... SOMEONE I
COULD CALL A *FRIEND...*
JUST SOMEONE, *ANYONE*,
WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND
ME AND THE HELL OF
LONELINESS IN WHICH I
EXISTED IN MY BARREN
ATTIC....



....AND THEN IT HAPPENED,
I WAS SITTING THERE, WEAV-
ING AND SUDDENLY I FELT
SOMEONE...SOMETHING...
WATCHING ME...I LOOKED
UP INTO TWO *BEADY BLACK*
EYES STaring AT MY
FINGERS AS THEY FLEW
ACROSS THE LOOM...AND I
WAS NO LONGER *ALONE...*
I'D *FOUND A FRIEND...* MY
ONE FRIEND.... A
SPIDER!

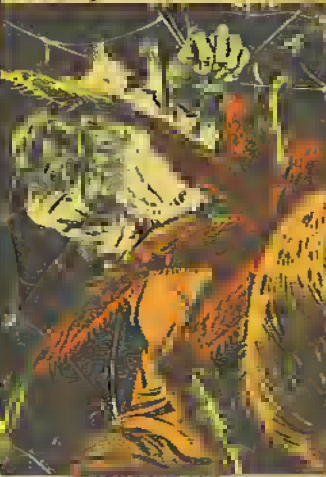


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...AND THEN ONE DAY I CAME IN
AND SAW A **LITTLE KITTEN**
CAUGHT IN MY **FRIEND'S WEB**...



ITS **PITIFUL HOWLS** MADE
ME TEAR IT FREE FROM THE
STICKY, CLOYING MESH...



AND AS I **SNUGGLED** THE BALL
OF FUR TO MY **BREAST** I
REALIZED THE **STRENGTH** OF
THOSE **SLIM SILVER THREADS**
AND I THOUGHT "WHY CAN'T
I SPIN A **WEB** ON MY **LOOM**
AND CATCH A **HUMAN**
FRIEND FOR MYSELF?"



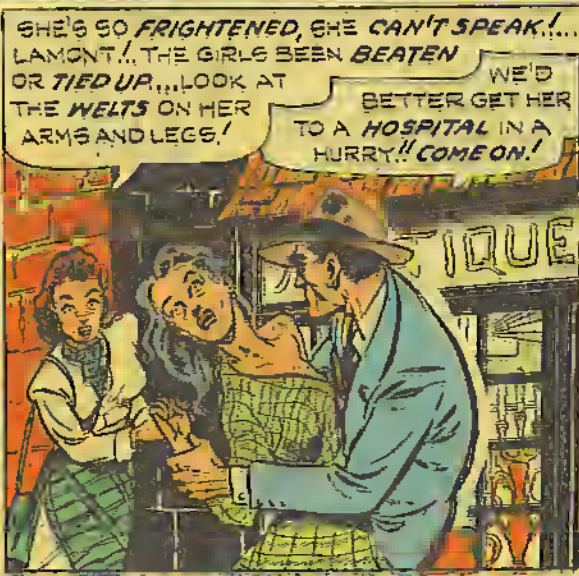
REALLY, LAMONT, SOME OF
YOUR FRIENDS LIVE IN THE
ODDEST NEIGHBORHOODS!

THAT, MARGOT, IS BECAUSE MY
FRIENDS ARE SOME OF THE
ODDEST PEOPLE...NOW TAKE
YOU...WHY...WHY?...
LOOK!...THAT
GIRL!



SHE'S **CRYING**...
SOBBING!...

SHE'S **HYSTERICAL!**...
HERE! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
TELL ME!!...



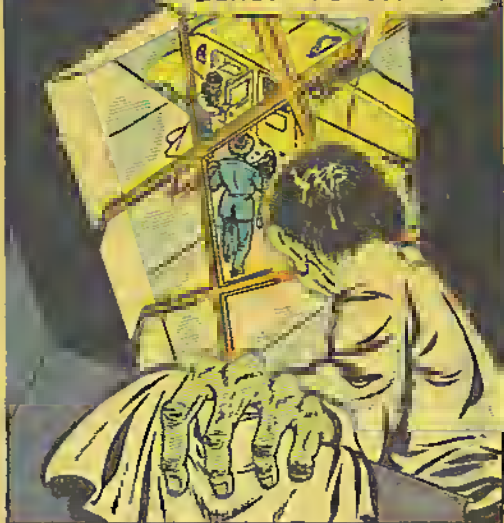
SHE'S SO **FRIGHTENED**, SHE CAN'T SPEAK!...
LAMONT!! THE GIRLS BEEN **BEATEN**
OR **TIED UP**...LOOK AT
THE **WELTS** ON HER
ARMS AND LEGS!

WE'D
BETTER GET HER
TO A **HOSPITAL** IN A
HURRY!! COME ON!

TUNE IN

EACH WEEK TO THE
OF THE
SHADOW

THERE THEY GO...I DIDN'T MEAN TO
FRIGHTEN TINA SO...I THOUGHT SHE'D
BE DIFFERENT...THAT SHE'D BE MY
FRIEND...THAT'S WHY I ASKED HER TO
COME UP TO MY ROOM TO SEE MY
BEAUTIFUL CLOTH....



I WANTED HER TO HAVE THE
CLOTH....BUT SHE SAID....



NO, ERIC...I CAN'T...
MY FATHER WOULD
KNOW I WAS
HERE AND HE'D
BEAT ME
AGAIN!

BEAT YOU, TINA?!
BUT WHY?!

HE'S FORBIDDEN ME TO
SEE YOU, ERIC...I MUST
GO...MY FATHER...I
MUST GO!



PLEASE DON'T GO! STAY
WITH ME... PLEASE! I'VE
NEVER HAD A FRIEND
BEFORE... PLEASE!

NO!...I CAN'T... I
HAVE TO WORK FOR
MY FATHER OR HE'LL
BEAT ME...I.... UH....
ERIC!... THAT SPIDER!



DON'T BE FRIGHTENED,
TINA...IT'S ONLY MY
SPIDER!

I...I'VE NEVER
SEEN SUCH A
BIG SPIDER, BEFORE,
ERIC!...SHE'S COMING AFTER
ME! ERIC!...SHE WANTS
TO HURT ME!...
ERIC!...



THRILLING

ADVENTURES

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS
FOR TIME AND STATION

SHE DOES LOOK ANGRY!
WHY...WHY SHE'S JEALOUS
OF YOU, TINA!!

STOP!! STOP!!
THE THREADS
ARE...CHOKING...
ME.... HELP!!

TINA... I... DON'T LOOK AT ME
LIKE THAT... WITH SUCH
HATE IN YOUR EYES!
I'LL FREE YOU, TINA....
I'LL FREE YOU!



TINA, I DIDN'T MEAN
TO HURT.... TINA!!
TINA... DON'T RUN
AWAY!! TINA!

NO!!... SOB! SOB!!
NO!!... NO!!...

....BUT SHE FLED FROM
ME IN **TERROR**.....
SOBBING...DOWN INTO
THE STREET...AND I
WAS **ALONE**
AGAIN.....



MEANWHILE... I HOPE WE CAN PULL HER
THROUGH... SHE'S HAD A **TERRIBLE SHOCK**,
SHE MAY NEVER
SPEAK AGAIN!

HMMM... HAVE YOU ANY
IDEA **WHO** SHE MIGHT
BE, DOCTOR?



HERE... WE FOUND THIS **FACTORY PASS** IN
HER POCKET... HER
NAME'S **TINA DONOVAN**... I'D LIKE TO DO IT,
HER FAMILY SHOULD IF I MAY, DOCTOR...
BE NOTIFIED... I'D LIKE TO SEE JUST

WHAT COULD NEARLY
**FRIGHTEN A PERSON TO
DEATH!**





AN HOUR LATER...

YOU'RE TINA DONOVAN'S FATHER?

YEAH...WHAT ABOUT IT?



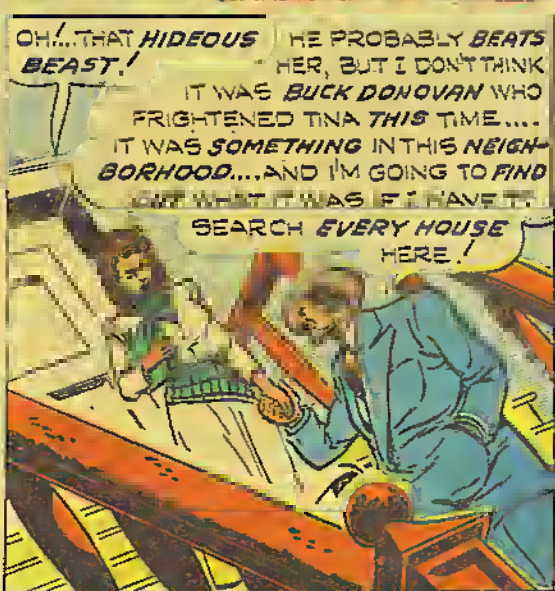
YOUR DAUGHTER'S VERY ILL AND IN THE HOSPITAL... WE THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE HER!

WHERE DO YOU TWO GET OFF STICKIN' YER NOSES IN MY BUSINESS?



LISTEN...SHE'S EITHER BEEN BEATEN UNMERCIFULLY OR TIED UP...FRIGHTENED NEARLY TO DEATH!

WHADAYA WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT? SHE PROBABLY DESERVED IT! NOW GET OUT! MY SUPPER'S WAITIN'!! GIT!!



OH!...THAT **HIDEOUS BEAST!**

HE PROBABLY BEATS HER, BUT I DON'T THINK

IT WAS **BUCK DONOVAN** WHO FRIGHTENED TINA THIS TIME....

IT WAS **SOMETHING** IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD....AND I'M GOING TO FIND

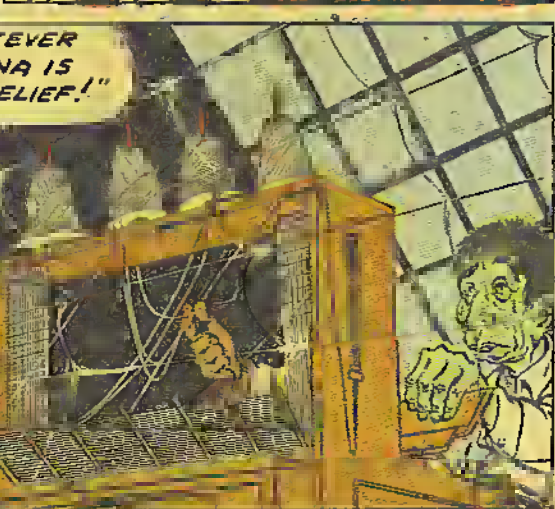
OUT WHAT IT WAS IF I HAVE TO.

SEARCH EVERY HOUSE HERE!



BUT LAMONT, IT'S A **HOPELESS TASK!**...WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

ONLY WHAT DOCTOR GORDEN SAID, MARGOT, "WHATEVER FRIGHTENED TINA IS BEYOND HUMAN BELIEF!"



TWO DAYS LATER...

WHY DOESN'T SHE COME?...

BE CAREFUL OF THOSE STAIRS,
MARGOT!

I'VE WATCHED HER LOOKING INTO ALL THE
HOUSES....AS IF SHE TOO WERE LOOKING
FOR A FRIEND....UH...SHE'S COMING
BUT THAT MAN'S WITH HER...I MUSTN'T
LET HIM SEE ME!



I'VE CLIMBED ENOUGH STAIRS
IN THE PAST TWO DAYS TO
KNOW MY WAY AROUND, MR
CRANSTON.....

SOR-RY!

WHY DIDN'T SHE COME
ALONE!?! THEN I COULD'VE
TALKED TO HER...AND WE
COULD'VE BEEN FRIENDS!!

THERE'S NO ONE
HERE, LAMONT...

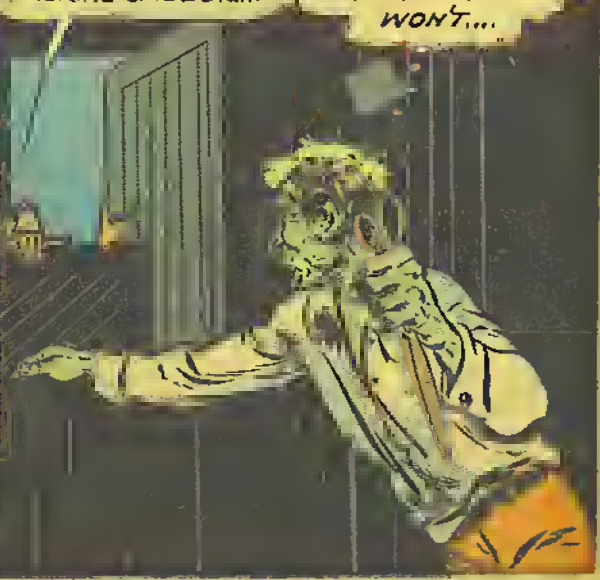
I CAN'T TELL.....
IT'S A GOOD
PLACE TO HIDE....



THIS WOULD BE AN IDEAL PLACE FOR
SOMEONE TO DRAG
TINA FRIGHTEN
AND BEAT HER!! ME... I'VE WALKED
INTO A TRAP!!!

I'LL JUST TAKE A
LOOK BEHIND THESE
PACKING CASES.....

HE'S MY ENEMY! HE'S
COME TO GET ME.....
HE WON'T! HE
WON'T...



I'LL JUST.... OUCH!!!
OW!!! I JABBED MY
FINGER.....

TSK!...TSK!... YOU
POOR LITTLE BOY...
OH, COME ON, I'M
TIRED...



AW....ALLRIGHT....I
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT....
MIMFF!...WE CAN TAKE
UP WHERE WE
LEFT OFF TO-
MORROW!!

SHE'S SAVED ME! SHE'S
MY FRIEND! TOMORROW
TOMORROW! MAYBE
IF I WAS CAREFUL
I'D GET A CHANCE TO
TALK TO HER TO-
MORROW!



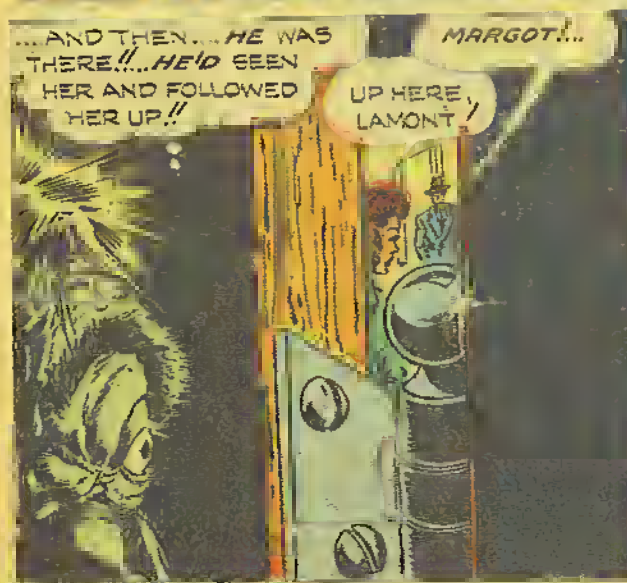
IT WAS DUSK THE *NEXT EVENING* WHEN I SAW
HER ALONE ON THE STREET BELOW....I DROPPED
A *LOVELY SHAWL* I'D BEEN WEAVING AND THEN
JUMPED BACK...AND LISTENED...AND THEN MY
HEART BEAT WILDLY WHEN I HEARD HER FOOT
STEPS ON MY TAIRS.....



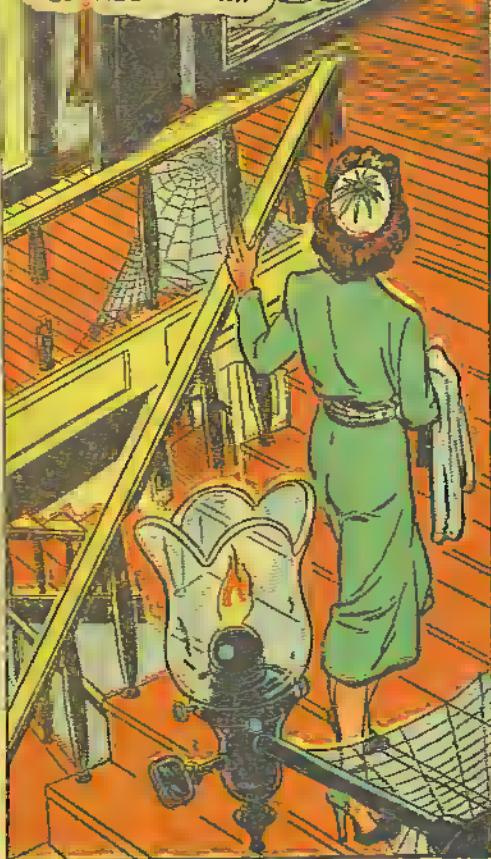
...AND THEN... HE WAS
THERE!!! HE'D SEEN
HER AND FOLLOWED
HER UP!!

MARGOT!...

UP HERE,
LAMONT!



MY *FRIEND*....WE WOULD LAUGH AND
WE'D TALK....I WOULDN'T BE *LONELY*
AGAIN... SHE WAS NEAR THE TOP
LANDING NOW....I RAN TO THE DOOR
AND OPENED IT A CRACK AND
LOOKED OUT.....



I THOUGHT WE AGREED TO
STICK TOGETHER WHILE WE
WERE **SEARCHING**...

BUT I **WASN'T**
SEARCHING...I
WAS RETURNING
THIS SHAWL SOMEONE
DROPPED OUT THE
WINDOW!...

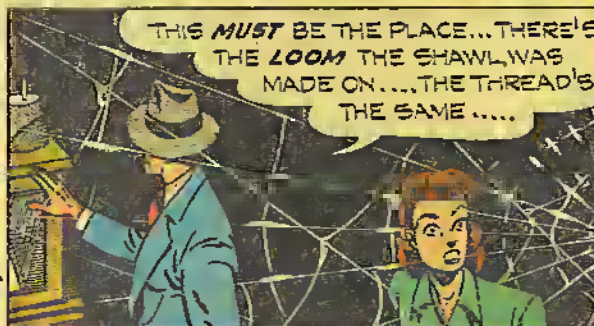


WELL...HERE'S AN OPEN
DOOR...MAYBE...**WHEW!!**
THE PLACE IS FULL OF
SPIDER WEBS!

NO ONE SEEMS
TO BE HOME...
MMPFF! THESE
GOOEY THINGS!



THIS **MUST** BE THE PLACE...THERE'S
THE **LOOM** THE SHAWL WAS
MADE ON...THE **THREAD'S**
THE SAME....



WHAT A DARK
STUFFY ROOM...IT....
OH!!..LAMONT!



LAMONT!!.. LOOK!!...
THAT **SPIDER !!**

GOOD LORD!!..
LOOK AT THE **SIZE**
OF IT!!...AND IT'S
COMING AT US!!...
STAND BACK!!



UGH!!! HOW HORRIBLE!
IS...IS IT DEAD?

YES...I NEVER DREAMED I'D HAVE TO USE MY GUN TO KILL... A SPIDER!!!
C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



THEY KILLED MY ONLY FRIEND... MY BEAUTIFUL LIT... WHA...? WHEN I TOUCHED HER... LIKE A MIRACLE... I LEARNED THE WAY TO SPIN WEBS!!!



I HAD LEARNED THE SPIDER'S SECRET!... THE SECRET OF SPINNING THREADS AS STRONG AS STEEL TO CATCH MY VICTIMS... LIKE THAT GIRL, MARGOT... AND KILLING HER TO AVENGE MY SPIDER'S DEATH!



MEANWHILE

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO SAY TO HER, LAMONT?...

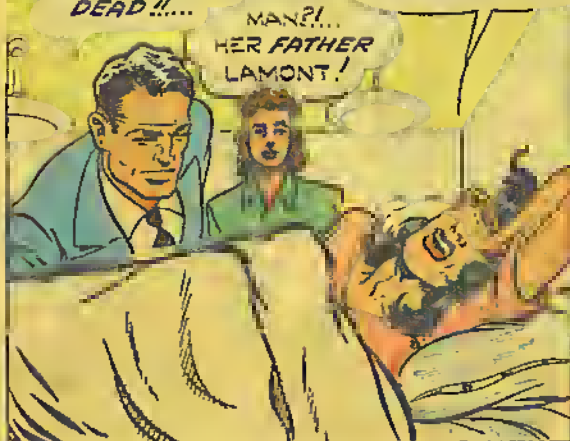
I'VE GOT TO CONVINCE HER THAT SHE'S SAFE IT MAY MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH TO HER!... HERE'S HER ROOM.....



TINA....TINA!...YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID ANY-MORE...IT'S GONE!... THE SPIDER IS DEAD!....

OH!... SOB!!! SPIDER...DEAD? SPIDER...MAN?? SOB!!! MAN??!

MAN?!... HER FATHER LAMONT!



HE MUST HAVE USED THAT SPIDER TO FRIGHTEN HER... WHY HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN HERE TO SEE HER! HE MUST KNOW SOMETHING AND IS AFRAID THEY'LL FIND OUT!

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT! LISTEN...I'M GOING TO VISIT HIM AGAIN... ALONE...AND AS THE SHADOW!

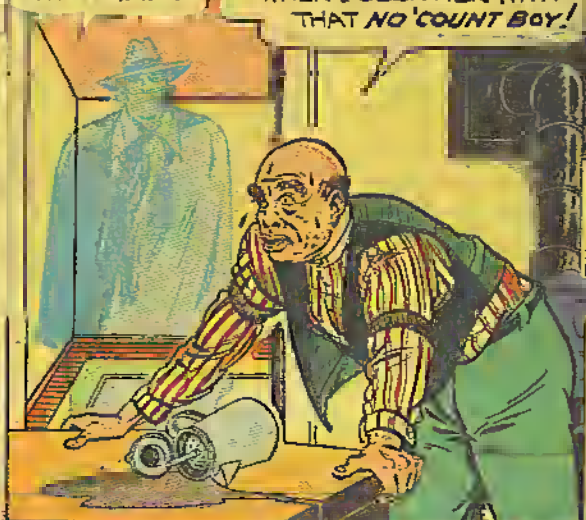


YOU CANNOT *ESCAPE ME*, BUCK DONOVAN!... I AM *EVERYWHERE*! *WHA? WHO TH...??*
SPEAK! WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE *SPIDER?* *S... SPIDER?... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHIN' ABOUT A SPIDER!... I SWEAR IT!!*



THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU VISITED YOUR DAUGHTER AT THE HOSPITAL?!

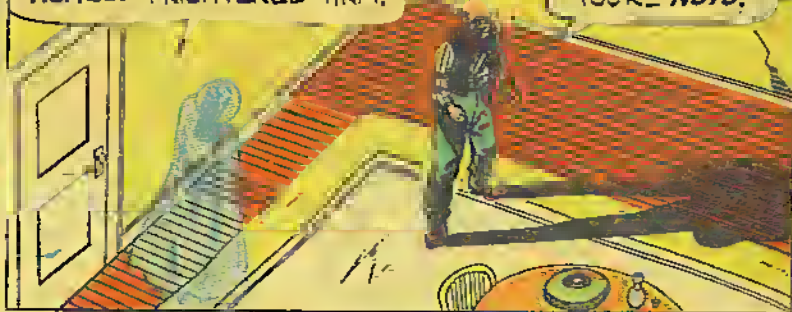
I... I WAS AFRAID THEY'D THINK I BEAT HER 'N' I *DIDN'T*... I ONLY DID IT WHEN I SEEN HER WITH THAT *NO-COUNT BOY*!



WHA BOY?... YOU MEAN THE *SPIDER BOY*!! *HA!... THAT'S A GOOD ONE!... SPIDER BOY, HE WEAVES THREADS LIKE A SPIDER! HA! HA!!*
BOY!!

THEN THERE *IS* A CONNECTION THERE!... A *REAL SPIDER* AND THE *BOY*!... GO VISIT YOUR DAUGHTER, BUCK DONOVAN, WHILE THE *SHADOW* DISCOVERS WHAT *REALLY* FRIGHTENED *TINA*!

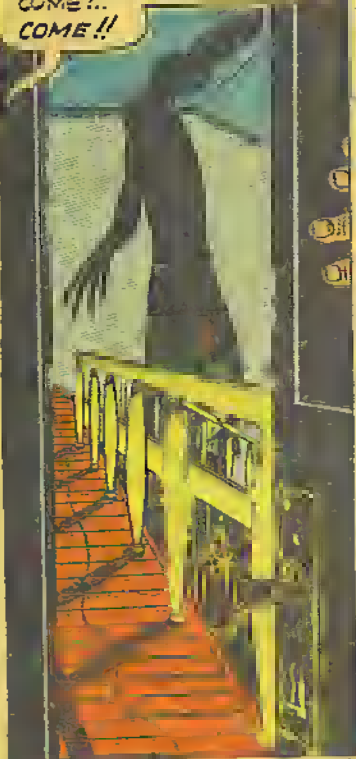
HUH?... YEH... OKAY... I WILL... A REAL SPIDER AND THE BOY... HUH!... I THINK YOU'RE NUTS!



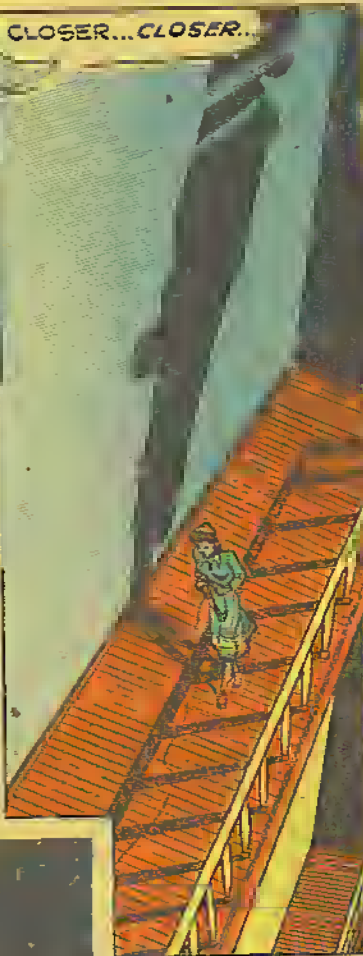
MY *TRAP* IS SET... *AH!*... SHE HAS FOUND THE *THREAD* THAT I HAVE *SPUN*... SHE'S *PICKED IT UP*... SHE'S *FOLLOWING IT*... *HA!*... SOON I WILL HAVE MY *REVENGE*!



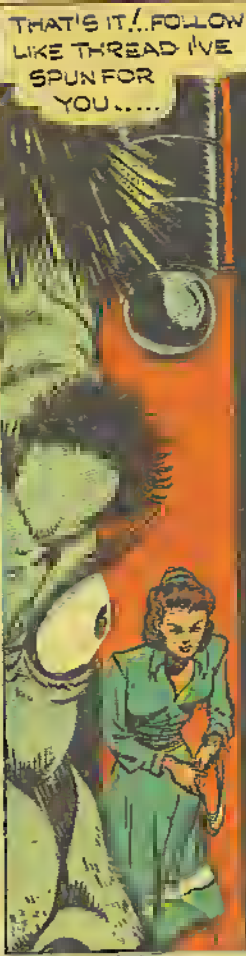
THAT'S IT!!...THAT'S IT!!
COME!!
COME!!



CLOSER...CLOSER..



THAT'S IT!..FOLLOW THE WEB
LIKE THREAD I'VE
SPUN FOR
YOU.....



CLOSER...CLOSER....



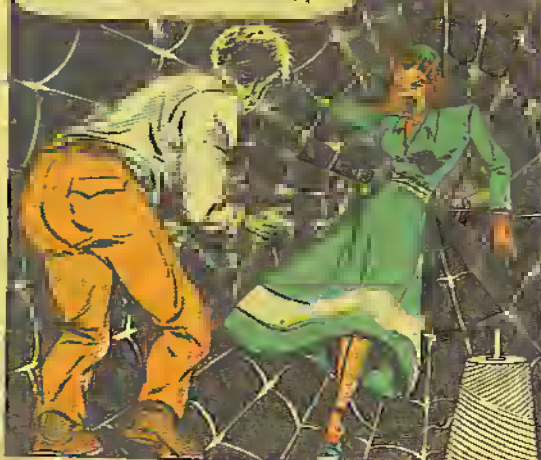
I'VE GOT YOU!!...HEE!HEE!HEE!!
I'VE GOT YOU!!..

WHA...?!...OH!!



YOU'VE **KILLED** MY **SPIDER**...
MY **ONLY** FRIEND...AND
NOW YOU SHALL PAY!

NO...NO...
HELP!!...



YOUR **SCREAMS** WON'T
HELP! I'LL **BIND** YOU IN
THE **WEB** I'VE SPUN...

UH?...YOU'RE
MAD!!... MAD!!...



YOU'RE **CHOKING** ME!!...I...I...
CAN'T BREATHE!!

HEE! HEE!
HEE!



YOU SHALL **DIE!!...DIE!!...DIE!!...**

AHHRRG!!

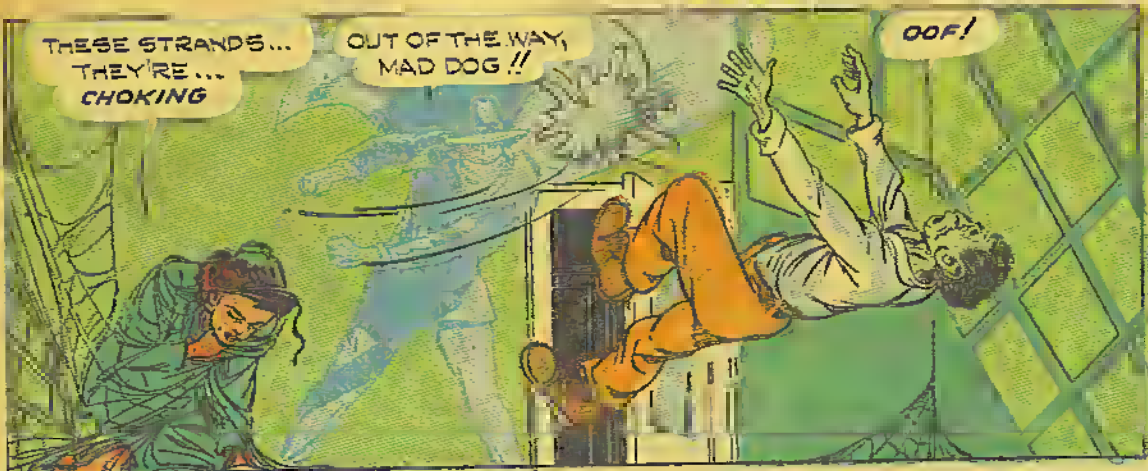
WE SHALL HAVE
OUR **REVENGE!**



UH??! **WHA....?!**
MY **LOOM!!...** SOMEONE
UPSET MY **LOOM!!**
MY **WEB** HAS
FALLEN!

YES, **SPIDER**
BOY... FOR THE
SHADOW'S **MAGIC**
IS **GREATER** THAN
YOURS!





THESE STRANDS...
THEY'RE...
CHOKING

OUT OF THE WAY,
MAD DOG !!

OOOF!



ALLRIGHT, MARGOT.... **THERE!**
YOU'RE **FREE!**

OH...THANK
HEAVEN!

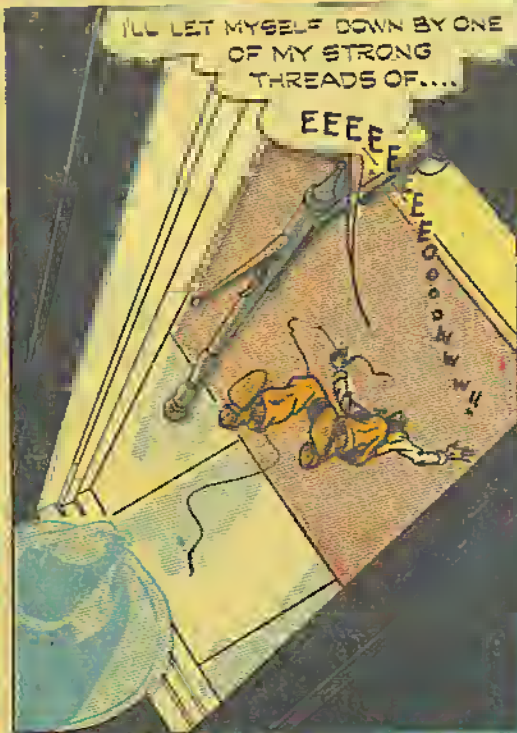
....AND NOW YOU ARE CAUGHT
IN YOUR OWN WEB...THE
POLICE ARE COMING TO
GET YOU!!...

**NO!!...THEY'LL NEVER
GET ME!...NEVER!**



**HEE!..HEE!!..I DON'T NEED
THE STAIRS! YOU FORGOT I
KNOW THE SPIDER'S SECRET..
I CAN LET MYSELF OUT OF THE
WINDOW LIKE HER!**

**STAIRS!.. YOU
DON'T ESCAPE!**



I'LL LET MYSELF DOWN BY ONE
OF MY STRONG
THREADS OF....

EEEE


**EEEE
OOOOWW!!**



DOC Savage

The Crystal Monsters

by
Pef's

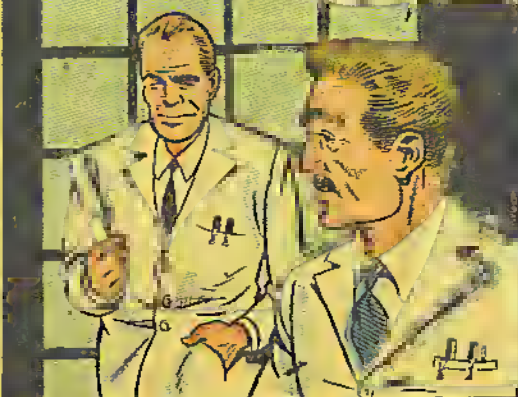


ALL THE LIFE ON OUR PLANET, FISH, ANIMALS, VEGETABLES AND MAN, IS ALL MADE UP OF CARBON MOLECULES THAT'S WHY WE NEED THE THINGS WE DO, THE REASON WE EAT THE THINGS WE DO BUT SUPPOSE LIFE WERE TO COME FROM SILICON ATOMS?.. THAT WAS WHAT THE MAN OF BRONZE FACED IN THE CRYSTAL MENACE.....

THE LABORATORY OF ACME PLASTICS INC.....

WONDER WHAT'D HAPPEN IF WE ADDED A GRAM OR SO OF **SILICON** TO THE LATEST VAT OF THAT **THERMO SETTING PLASTIC?**

TRY IT, SILICON **HARDENS** MOST THINGS AND THAT'S OUR **PROBLEM!**

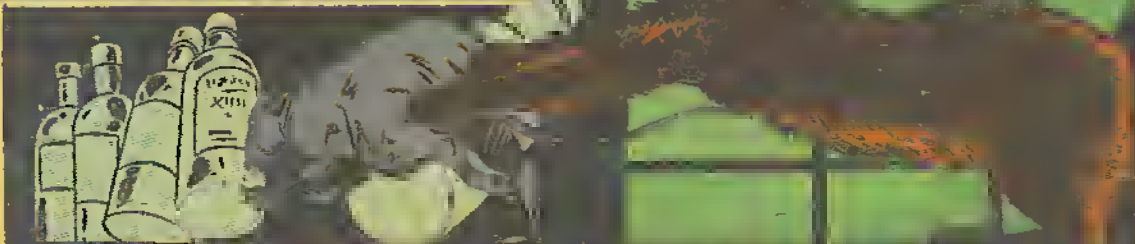


IT BEGAN AS SIMPLY AS THAT...TWO MEN
OF SCIENCE AT WORK

THIS IS FINE *PLASTIC* BUT IT STAYS
TOO *SOFT*....IF WE COULD
HARDEN IT!

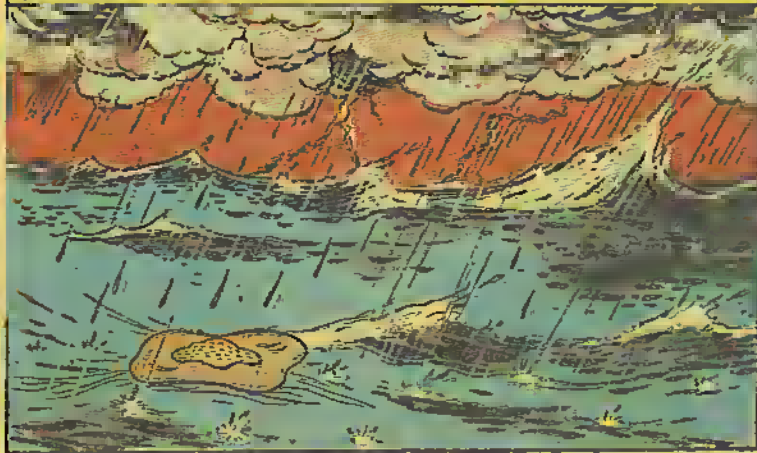


THERE WAS ONE OTHER FACTOR...LATE THAT
NIGHT.....

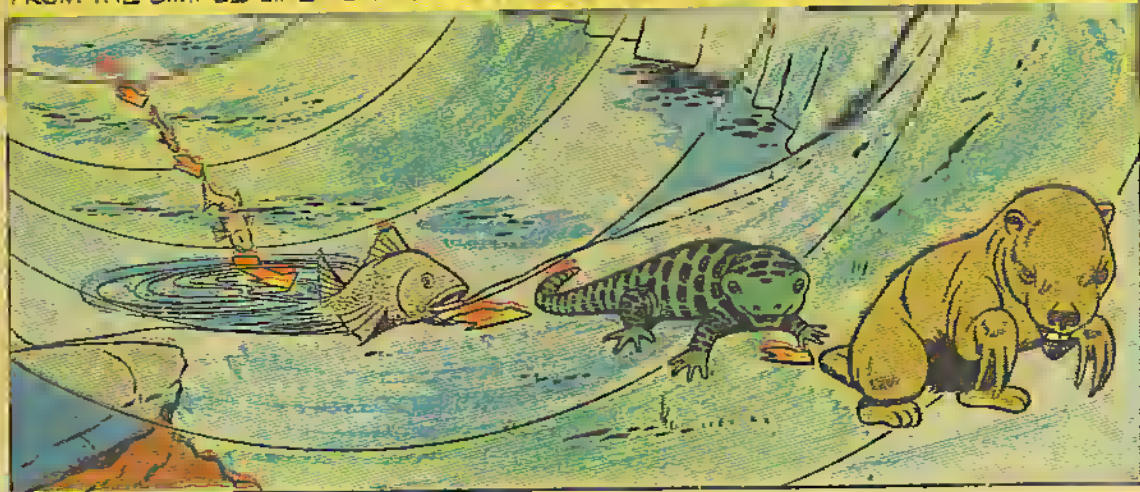


JUST AN ACCIDENT.... SOME RUNNING RATS SOME
BOTTLES TURNED OVER....AND THEN THE SLOW AD-
DITION OF SOME CHEMICALS TO THE SILICON AND TO THE
PLASTIC....IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE....ANYTIME..
ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN....FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WAS
THE WAY VULCANIZING RUBBER WAS DISCOVERED

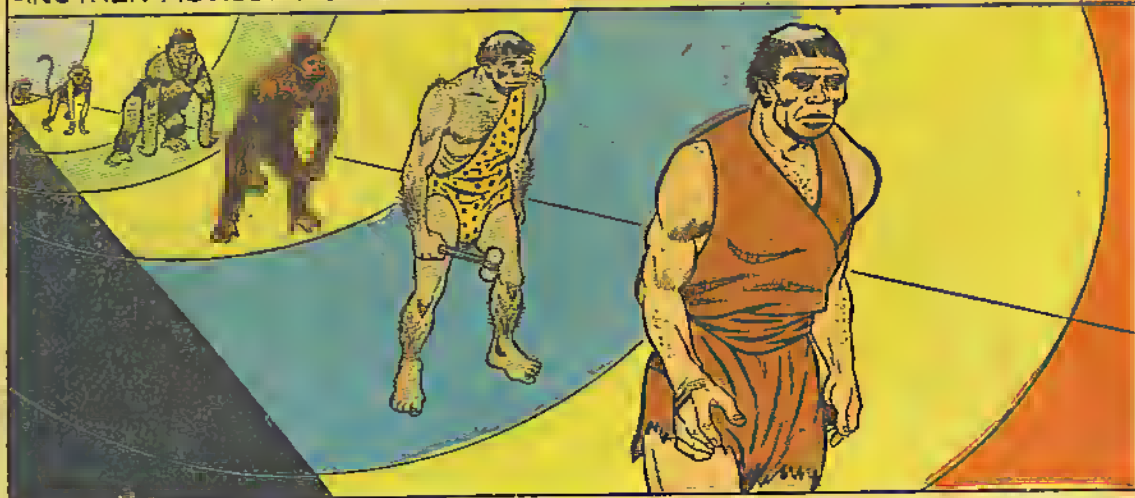
SCIENCE THINKS WE STARTED BY ACCIDENT....SOME-
THING LIKE THIS



AN ACCIDENT MADE THE AMOEBA...MADE IT OUT OF CARBON ATOMS...IT ASCENDED FROM THE SIMPLE LIFE FORM AND SOON.....



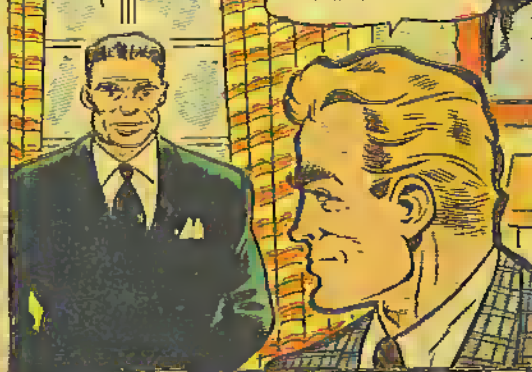
ANOTHER ACCIDENT SOMEPLACE ALONG THE LINE RESULTED IN A MUTATION.....



IT'S A SHORT STEP FROM THE CRO-MAGNON MAN, TO MAN AS WE KNOW HIM.....

WHAT'S NEW TODAY, DOC?

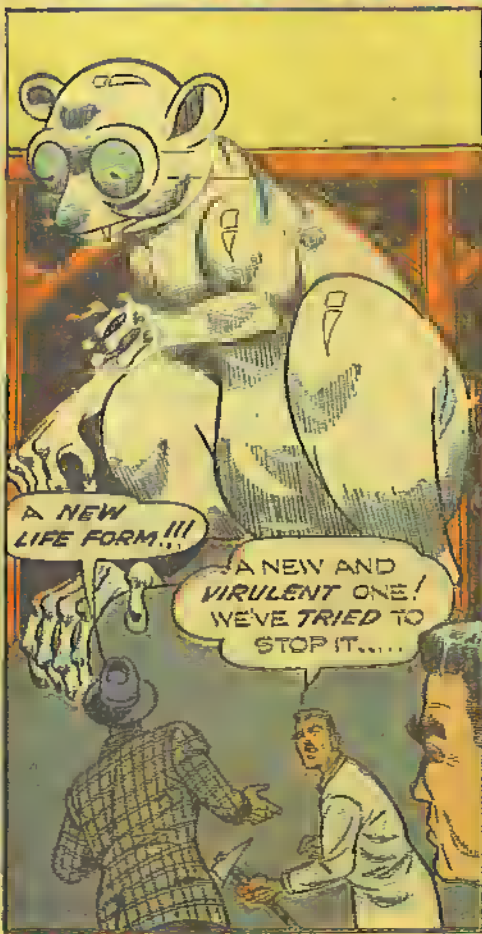
NOTHING... IF YOU WANT WE CAN GO OUT TO THAT **PLASTICS FACTORY** AND LOOK AROUND!!



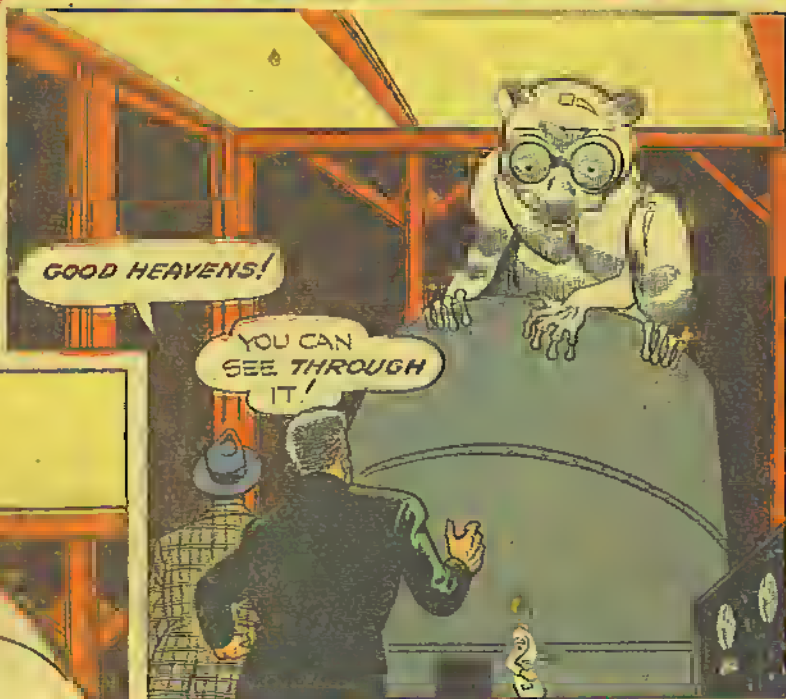
HOW COME A FACTORY?

THEY'RE FOOLING WITH A **NEW PLASTIC** WITH SOME **STRANGE PROPERTIES!** I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK!





WHAT'S UP?? THEY LOOK SCARED OUT OF A DAY'S GROWTH.



IT SOUNDS LIKE GLASS WHEN IT BREAKS!

BUT IT DOESN'T
BREAK! LOOK! IT
REFORMS!



IT'S LIKE JASON'S TEETH! CUT OFF PART
AND IT BECOMES ANOTHER
WHOLE!

CLICK...
CLICK...
CLICK...

WHAT'S
THAT SOUND?
THAT CLICK?



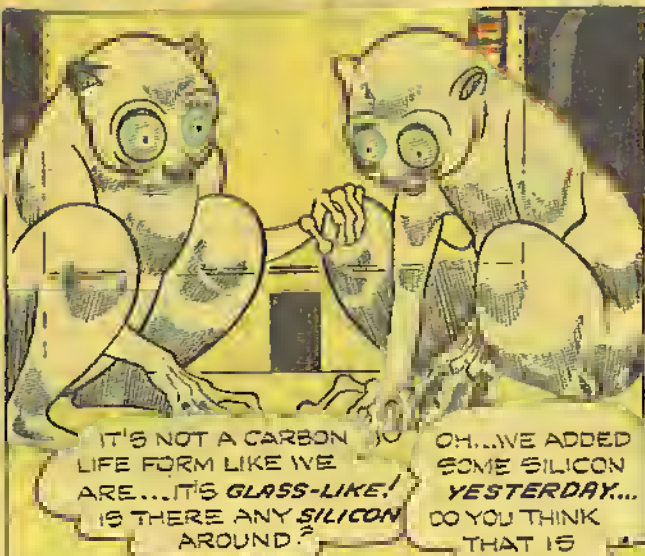
GOOD GRIEF!
THAT'S THE
GEIGER
COUNTER!

AND THE GEIGER
COUNTER IS
RESPONDING!
THAT MEANS THE THING
IS RADIO-ACTIVE !!
LIKE RADIUM OR RADIO-
ACTIVE ISOTOPES!



CLICK!
CLICK!

AM AFRAID SO! IT DOESN'T NEED
FOOD OF OUR KIND TO GROW! IT
MUST BE GETTING SOME RADIO-
ACTIVITY....IT'S STILL GROWING..
IT.....WHAT IS IT MAN?!!
WHAT ARE YOU
THINKING?



IT'S NOT A CARBON
LIFE FORM LIKE WE
ARE...IT'S GLASS-LIKE!
IS THERE ANY SILICON
AROUND?

OH...WE ADDED
SOME SILICON
YESTERDAY...
DO YOU THINK
THAT IS
SILICON
LIFE?

CLICK CLICK...
CLACKETY CLACK...
CLICK...



T...THERE'S AN ATOM
BOMB LAB ONLY TWO MILES
AWAY! COULD THE THING
BE DRAWING ON THE
URANIUM PILE?



DOC! THEY'RE GOING THROUGH THE WALL!

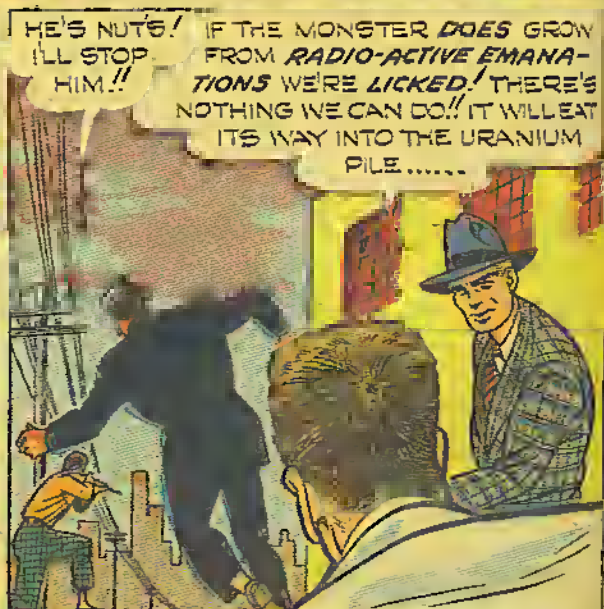
IT MUST GIVE OFF SOMETHING THAT DISSOLVES STONE!



WE'VE SPAWNED A MONSTER....A NEW LIFE FORM...THAT MAY MEAN THE END OF MANKIND!



STOP THAT MAN! HE'LL BREAK THE MONSTER INTO MORE PIECES AND EACH WILL BECOME A NEW MONSTER!!



HE'S NUTS! I'LL STOP HIM!!

IF THE MONSTER DOES GROW FROM RADIO-ACTIVE EMANATIONS WE'RE LICKED! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!! IT WILL EAT ITS WAY INTO THE URANIUM PILE.....



LET ME THINK!!

THE THING IS HALFWAY TO THE URANIUM BY NOW!!.....



MAYBE....YES...IT SHOULD...MEN, HAVE YOU A TANK OF HYDROGEN.... AND SOME FLUORINE?

YES, OF COURSE! WHY? WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO?



MONK, HAVE THE CAR READY!

BETTER HURRY! THE THINGS ARE A MILE AWAY.... THEY'RE DISSOLVING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH!



LUCKY THEY HAD THOSE ASBESTOS FIRE FIGHTING SUITS!

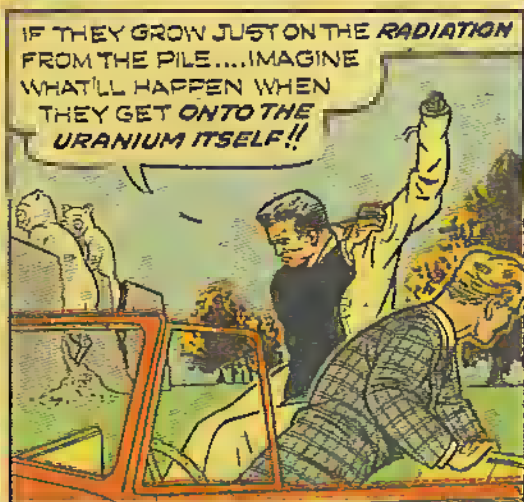
THE QUESTION IS, WILL THEY BE STRONG ENOUGH TO SAVE US?



MEANWHILE....

TINKLE!...
CRASH!...
TINKLE!...

BOOM...
BAROOMM.....



IF THEY GROW JUST ON THE RADIATION FROM THE PILE.... IMAGINE WHAT'LL HAPPEN WHEN THEY GET ONTO THE URANIUM ITSELF!!

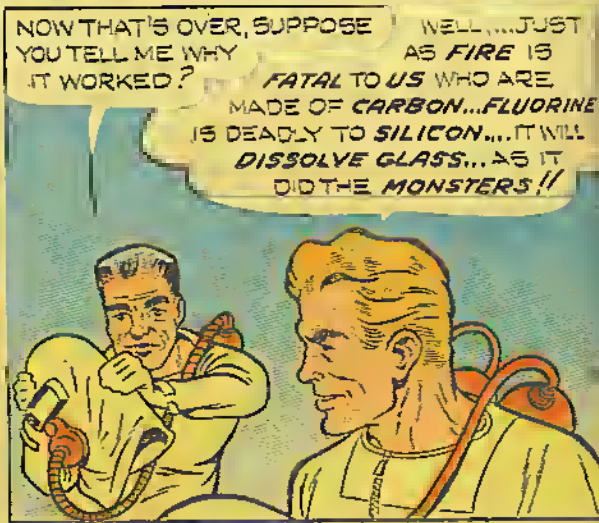


THIS HOSE ISN'T GOING TO LAST LONG WHEN THE FLUORINE GAS STARTS OUT! MEN! CLEAR OUT! WE'RE GOING TO TRY AND STOP THE MONSTERS!



GULP!...WE'RE SO LITTLE....AND THEY'RE SO BIG!!

ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY!...OTHERWISE THIS NEW LIFE FORM MAY PUT MAN OUT OF THE RUNNING!!



NICK CARTER

BATTLES
THE

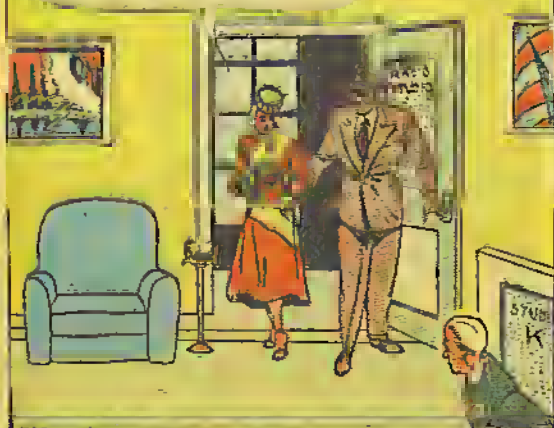
GRAY MARKET



Powell

TODAY, RACKETEERS ARE BUSILY ENGAGED IN FOSTERING THE GRAY MARKET, A RECENT OUTGROWTH OF THE NOTORIOUS BLACK MARKET...ORGANIZED BANDS OF CROOKS ARE PROFITING BY SHORTAGES IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS AND ARE USING THE MERCHANTS AS "FRONTS" TO "FENCE" GOODS AT OUTRAGEOUS PRICES....READ HOW NICK CARTER AIDS A LEGITIMATE MANUFACTURER TO SMASH THIS RACKET.....

YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD TAKEN ON A CASE FOR **FREEZOTONE ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS**.....YET HERE WE ARE AT A **RADIO STUDIO!**



THAT'S RIGHT... WE'RE HERE TO SEE THE **FREEZOTONE** BROADCAST AND HERE'S MR. LAYTON, THE VICE PRESIDENT.

STEP RIGHT INTO THE SPONSOR'S ROOM, MR. CARTER!



SPONSOR ROOM



YOU MEAN
CALLING IT A HALF-
WAY POLICY? HUH...HUH...I'LL
CHANGE THAT NEXT TIME! I
SUPPOSE THIS IS NICK
CARTER. THAT'S
RIGHT.



RE BEING I THOUGHT
IT WOULD COME
TO THAT. WHERE
DOES YOUR *NEXT* SHIP-
MENT GO?



WELL,
WELL
TRY.....

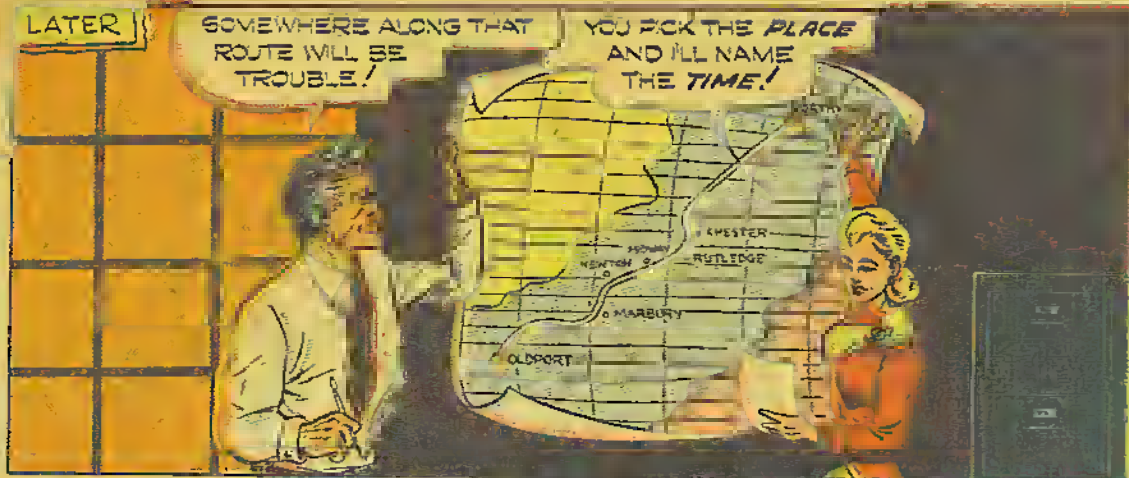


TUNE IN
EACH WEEK TO **NICK CARTER**
OVER MUTUAL NETWORK

LATER

SOMEWHERE ALONG THAT
ROUTE WILL BE
TROUBLE!

YOU PICK THE *PLACE*
AND I'LL NAME
THE *TIME*!



YOU GO TO NEWTON AND TELL THE
SHERIFF TO POST MEN BY THE
MAIN ROAD AND WATCH FOR
*SUSPICIOUS LOOKING
TRUCKS!*

BUT
NEWTON
ISN'T EVEN
ON THE
ROUTE!!



I KNOW....BUT NEWTON IS NEAR WHERE THE
TROUBLE IS DUE!... I'M GOING TO OLDPORT
AND RIDE WITH THE SHIPMENT
% INTO NORTHVILLE!



SHERIFF, I CAME
HERE TO.....

I KNOW! WE GOT A WIRE
FROM MR. CARTER TO LOOK
FOR YOU! GIVE US THE DETAILS
AND THEN YOU CAN RUN
ALONG!!



RUN ALONG! I LIKE THAT! I'LL
HIRE A CAR AND GO OVER TO
THE MAIN HIGHWAY *MYSELF!*
I'LL FIND OUT AS MUCH AS
THAT SHERIFF!!



SUNDAY EVENING
6:30 P.M. EST.

— sponsored by

OLD DUTCH
CLEANSER





SO THIS IS THE MAIN
HIGHWAY! NOT MUCH
STIRRING.....YET!

OLDPORT



HERE COME THE TRUCKS.....
AND THEY'RE BEING
HIJACKED!



THEY'RE TAKING THE DRIVERS
PRISONERS, AND THEY'RE TURNING
TOWARD NEWTON! I'D BETTER
FIND THE SHERIFF!!



JUST A MINUTE, YOU.....YOU'RE
COMING WITH US!



WHEN WE GET TO THE HIDEAWAY, WE CAN
SWITCH THE GOODS TO OUR OWN
TRUCKS AND GO WHEREVER
THE BOSS SAYS!

THE BOSS WILL
DECIDE WHAT
TO DO WITH THE
TRUCKERS AND THE
DAME!!

THE TRUCKS RUMBLE THROUGH AN OLD COVERED BRIDGE AND FINALLY GET TO THE HIDEAWAY.....



ALL RIGHT! HERE'S WHERE WE GET OUT !!

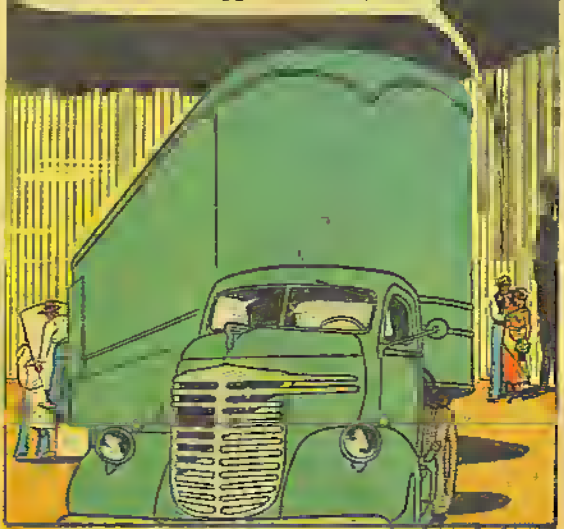


WHY....THIS LOOKS LIKE THE UNDERGROUND SHELTER OF AN ABANDONED WAR PLANT !!

YEAH, BABY....THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS!



WE USE THIS JOINT TO SWITCH THE REFRIGERATORS TO OUR OWN TRUCKS....WE'RE LEAVING THE TRUCK DRIVERS HERE.....



ONLY YOU WON'T BE WITH THEM, UNLESS YOU TELL WHO TIPPED YOU OFF TO THIS JOB!!!, SO START TALKING AND FAST!

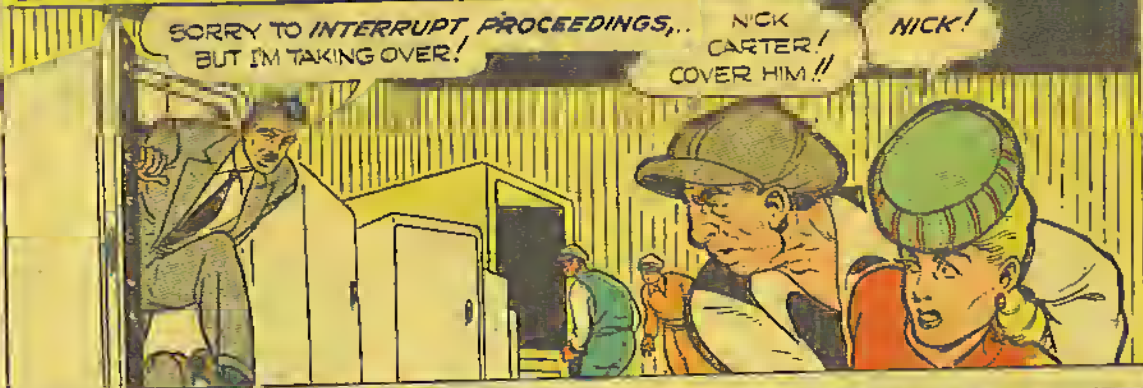


BEFORE PATSY CAN EVEN THINK....LET ALONE TALK.....

SORRY TO INTERRUPT PROCEEDINGS,.. BUT I'M TAKING OVER!

NICK
CARTER!
COVER HIM!!

NICK!



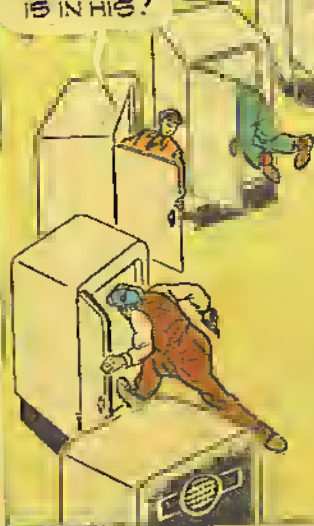
HOLD IT! I INTEND TO TOSS
THIS BOMB AND BE BACK
IN MY ICE-BOX BEFORE
IT STRIKES!!

DUCK INTO OTHER ICE-
BOXES! WE'LL BE AS
SAFE AS CARTER
IS IN HIS!

YEAH... AND WE'LL GET HIM
AFTER THE BOMB BLOWS!

SORRY, PATSY... YOU'LL
HAVE TO CHANCE IT
WITH THESE CROOKS!

OH!!



THAT HOAX WAS PERFECT!
NOW FOR THE
CLIMAX!



COME ON, PAT'S....
HEY!!! SNAP OUT
OF IT!...

WHA...??... NICK!...



SO THE BOMB WAS A FAKE THAT YOU
BROUGHT ALONG WITH YOU IN THE
SPECIAL REFRIGERATOR!

THAT'S
RIGHT!



NOW WE'LL POST THE TRUCKMEN
OUTSIDE AND BAG THE BIG-SHOT
WHEN HE ARRIVES!



THE BOMB DIDN'T GO OFF! ALL SELF-
LOCKED IN
WHERE ARE THE
CROOKS?

REFRIGERATORS
MINE

WAS THE ONLY ICE-BOX FIXED
TO OPEN FROM THE INSIDE!

AND ED GOT THE KEY

TRUCKMAN!!



HELLO, BOSS EVERYTHING
IS JAKE!

EXCELLENT!

READY
EVERYBODY!



IT'S NICK CARTER!
GET HIM, MEN!

NOT A CHANCE! WE'RE
FIRST THIS TIME!



THAT WILL SETTLE YOU,
CORBY... AND THE SHOTS
WE LET YOUR MEN FIRE
WILL BRING THE SHERIFF!!



HOW DID YOU GUESS THAT
FELIX CORBY WAS
THE BIG-SHOT?
REMEMBER HIS RADIO
SPIEL? HOW HE USED THE
WORD "MIDWAY" AND LATER
SWITCHED TO "HALFWAY"?
WHEN I SAW MIDWAY ON THE MAP, I
REALIZED HE HAD TIPPED OFF THE
BANKROBBERIES WERE ABOUT TO
HIJACK THE SHIPMENT!



HEAVE 'EM ON BOARD... AND
DON'T HANDLE 'EM WITH
CARE!

WE'LL DROP THE CONTENTS OF THOSE
ICE-CHESTS IN THE COUNTY JAIL,
MR CARTER! TOO BAD WE CAN'T
PLUG IN THE WIRES AND GIVE
THE CROOKS A NICE
COLD RIDE!

NEVERMIND, SHERIFF, WE'VE
FROZEN THE
GRAY MARKET
AND THAT'S THE
WAY WE'LL KEEP
IT!!



THE SHADOW IN THE LEAGUE OF SMILING MEN

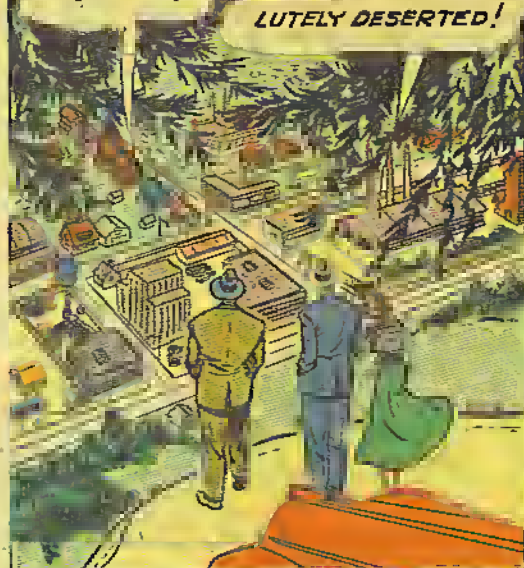


THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL CRIMES TO SOLVE ARE THE CRIMES OF INSANITY...CRIMES WHERE THE CRIMINAL, POSSESSED OF POWERS BEYOND THE KNOWLEDGE OF NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS IS ABLE TO EXERT TERRIBLE HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE UPON ALL THOSE HE COMES IN CONTACT WITH... SUCH WAS THE POWER OF THE MAD GENIUS MERLIN, WHO CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE SMILING MAN AND WHOSE STORY IS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND HORRIBLE IN THE ANNALS OF THE SHADOW.....

INSPECTOR WESTON, OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, ON SPECIAL GOVERNMENT ASSIGNMENT, CALLS IN HIS OLD FRIEND LAMONT CRANSTON TO HELP HIM IN THE MOST BAFFLING CASE OF HIS CAREER.....

THERE SHE IS, LAMONT... MIDVILLE... SIX MONTHS AGO A BUSY, PROSPERING CITY OF TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE!!

BUT INSPECTOR, WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S ABSOLUTELY DESERTED!



THAT'S THE MYSTERY, MARGO... ONE NIGHT THE RADIO STATION WENT OFF THE AIR AT MIDNIGHT AS USUAL, THE 12:15 AM TRAIN FROM CLEVELAND PULLED IN TO LET OFF A PASSENGER AND ALL SEEMED NORMAL.....



...THE FOLLOWING MORNING THE RADIO STATION *DIDN'T* GO ON THE AIR, THE TELEPHONE CENTRAL WAS *DEAD*.... WHEN THE 7:12 TRAIN PULLED IN FROM CLEVELAND.... THE TOWN WAS *DESERTED* AS YOU SEE IT NOW!



FANTASTIC!... TEN THOUSAND PERSONS DISAPPEARING OVERNIGHT!...

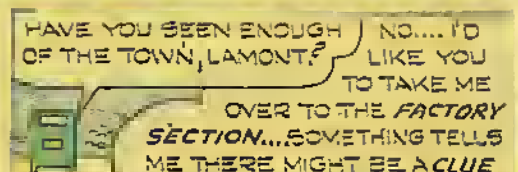
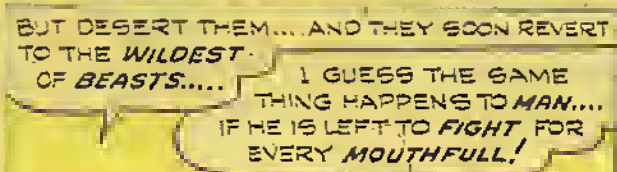
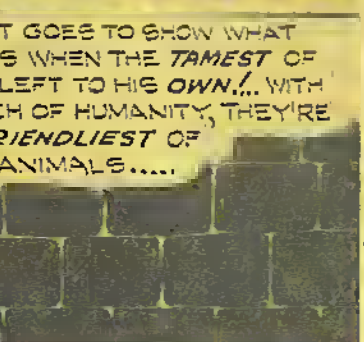
...AND NOT A SINGLE SIGN OF LIFE LEFT IN THE TOWN!



LOOKOUT!

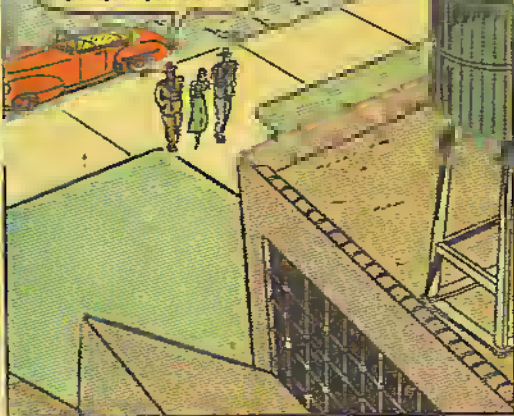
THOSE DOGS ARE ATTACKING!





A FEW MINUTES LATER.....

THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO SEE HERE, LAMONT, ALL THE MACHINERY WAS LEFT BEHIND....ALL OF THE FACTORIES INCLUDING THIS ONE ARE **READY TO GO INTO OPERATION!**



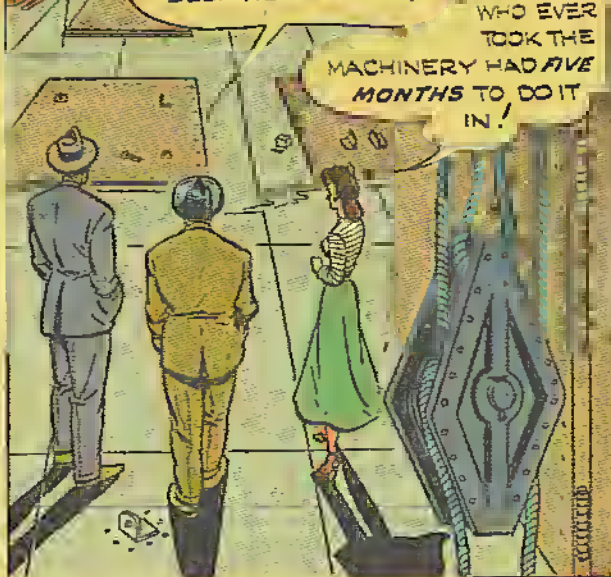
READY TO GO INTO OPERATION, EH? AS YOU CAN SEE, THE MACHINERY WAS REMOVED SOMETIME AGO..

MUH...THE

ARMY WAS ON GUARD HERE

FOR ABOUT A MONTH, THEN THEY PULLED OUT...**NOBODY'S BEEN HERE SINCE!**

THEN WHO EVER TOOK THE MACHINERY HAD **FIVE MONTHS TO DO IT IN!**



NOW YOU SEE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST, LAMONT....I'VE BEEN ON THE CASE SIX WEEKS, SINCE IT HAPPENED.... AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE CLUE !!



IT'S ALMOST LIKE **SUPERNATURAL FORCE** IS AT WORK !!

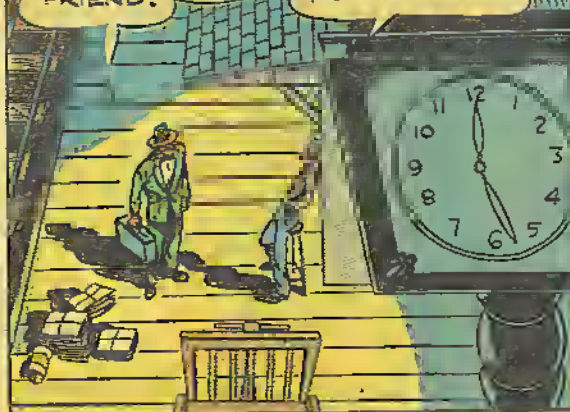
I'D SAY **NATURAL FORCE** WITH **UNNATURAL POWERS!!!**



THAT NIGHT IN A NEARBY TOWN CALLED CHANVILLE

WHERE WILL I FIND A GOOD HOTEL, FRIEND?

WELL, THERE ARE A COUPLE IN TOWN, ONE ABOUT AS GOOD AS THE OTHER !!



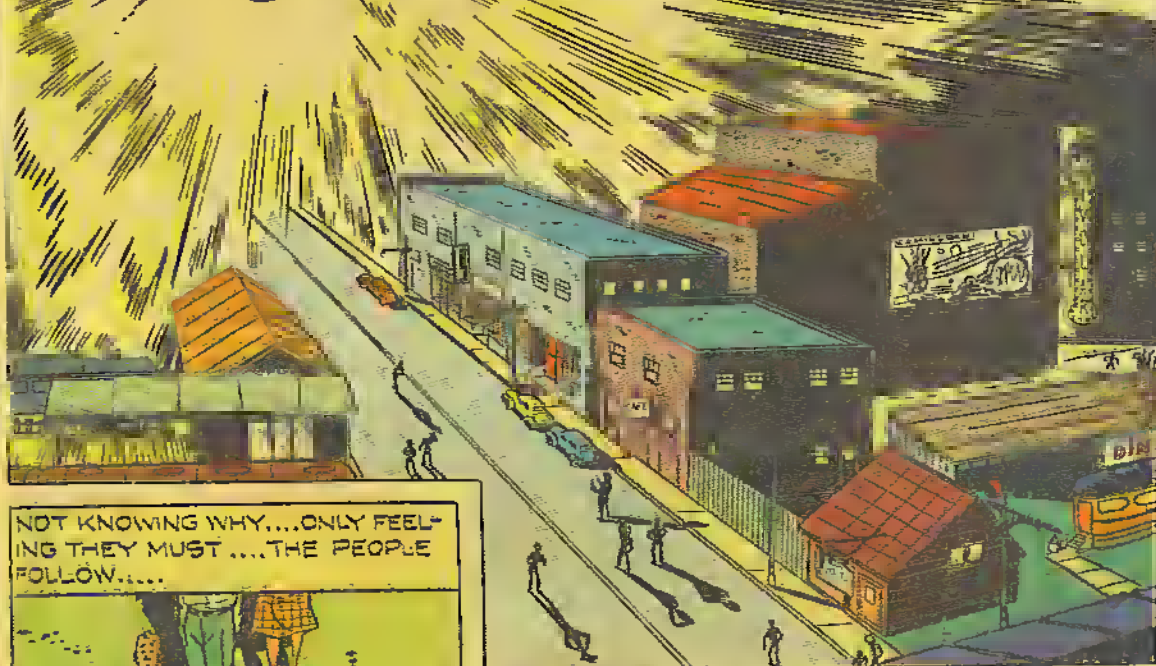
SUDDENLY...

I...I DON'T KNOW...
I....I CAN'T SEE!!

TH...THAT LIGHT!!
WH...WHAT IS IT??



AWAKEN GOOD FRIENDS OF
CHANVILLE.....I HAVE COME FOR
YOU....FOLLOW ME.....HAVE NO
FEAR.....JUST FOLLOW ME.....



NOT KNOWING WHY....ONLY FEEL-
ING THEY MUSTTHE PEOPLE
FOLLOW.....



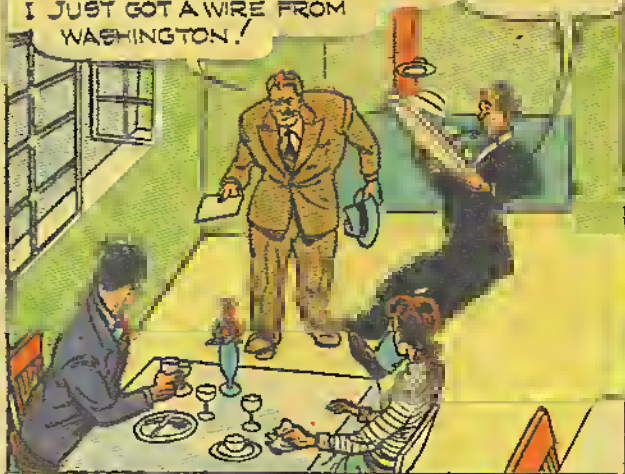
FORGET EVERYTHING CHILDREN.....
THINK ONLY OF MEYOUR MASTER
FROM NOW UNTIL ETERNITY!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING

LAMONT!...IT HAPPENED AGAIN!...
I JUST GOT A WIRE FROM
WASHINGTON!

AGAIN?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



I'VE GOT A CAR OUT FRONT....WE'LL DRIVE
OVER IMMEDIATELY!!

YOU AND MARGO GO....
I HAVE A LITTLE INVESTIGATING
I WANT TO DO AROUND HERE
FIRST!!

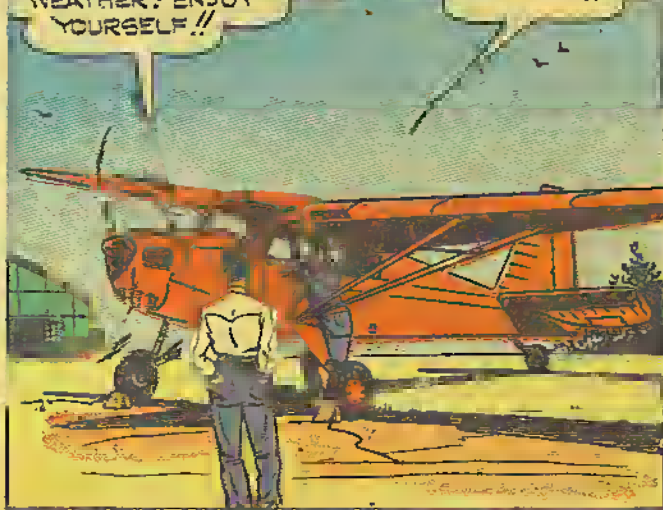
OKAY!... SEE YOU
LATER!!



LAMONT GOES TO A PRIVATE AIRFIELD AND RENTS
A PLANE.....

YOU'VE GOT GOOD FLYING
WEATHER! ENJOY
YOURSELF!!

THANKS.... I'LL
BE BACK IN A FEW
HOURS!!

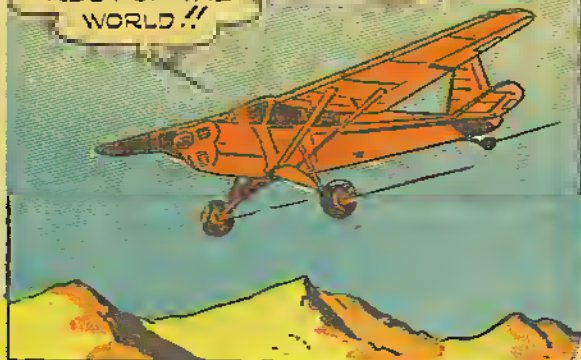


HE IS TAKING OFF NOW... BRING
HIM DOWN IF HE GETS NEAR
OUR HEADQUARTERS!



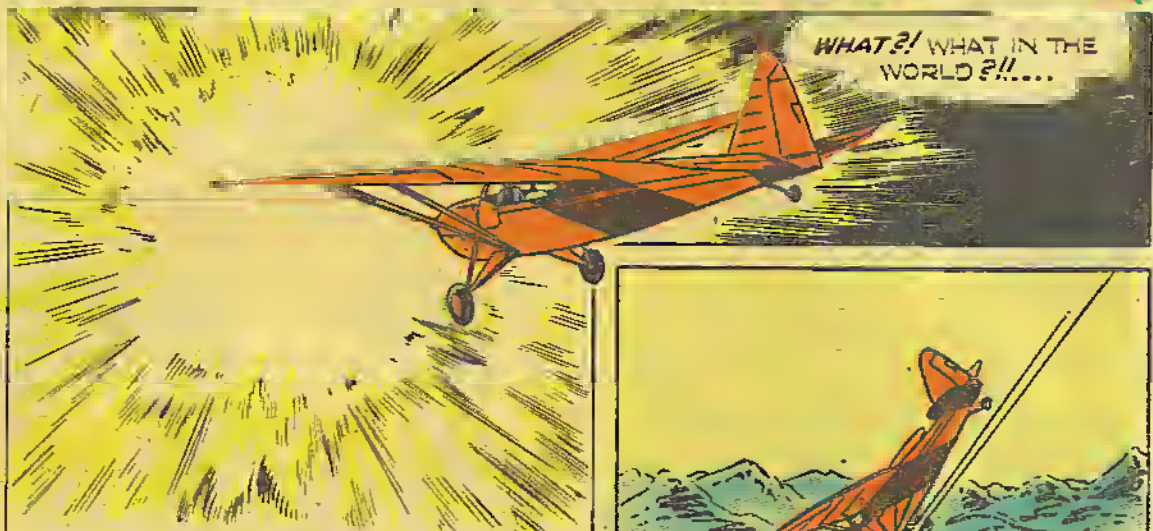
LAMONT HEADS HIS PLANE FOR THE HALFWAY POINT BETWEEN MIDVILLE AND CHANVILLE.....

.... NOW I'VE GOT TO KEEP CIRCLING OUT IN EVER WIDENING CIRCLES!!... *SOMEWHERE* BELOW ARE *TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE*... HIDDEN.... *SOMEHOW*, FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD !!



A SHORT TIME LATER....

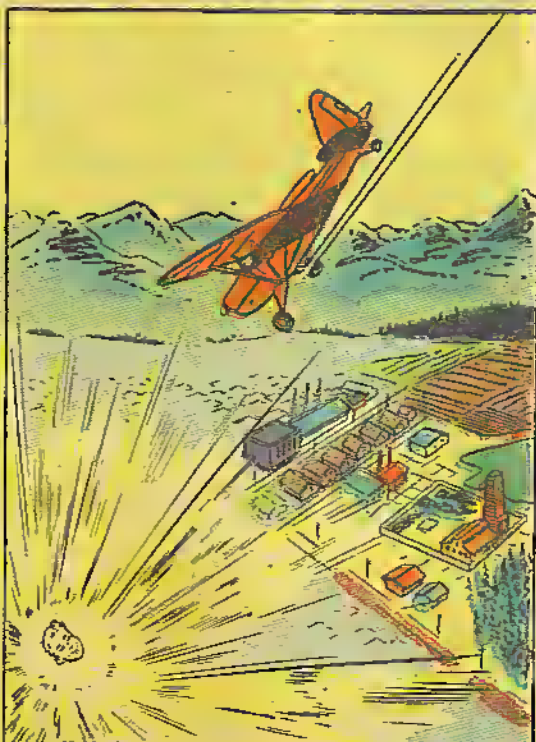
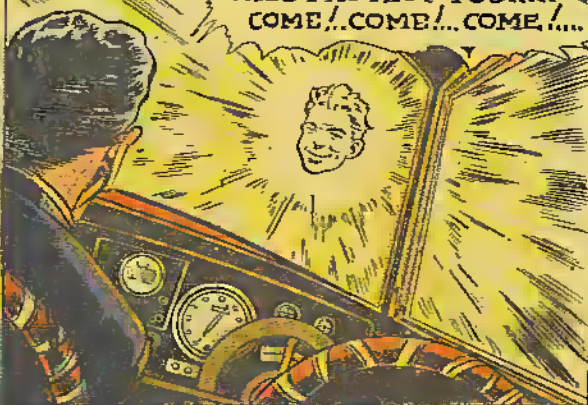
HMMM.... THAT'S ODD.... THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER.... THE WEATHER HOT.... YET EVERY HOUSE HAS A BIG FIRE GOING !



WHAT?! WHAT IN THE WORLD ?!!....

THE LIGHT.... THE FACE.... MAKING ^{IN} RELAX, ME WEAK.... LOSING LAMONT CONTROL!!

CRANSTON.....
COME TO ME... HAVE NO FEAR.... I AM KIND... I WILL PROTECT YOU.....
COME!! COME!! COME!!....



AS THOUGH BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE, LAMONT'S HAND PUSHES DOWN THE JOY-STICK.... THE PLANE HEADS FOR THE SMILING FACE.....

AT THAT MOMENT....

I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO BELIEVE IN THE SUPERNATURAL, GENERAL, BUT NOW.... **NO!! I STILL DON'T....** THERE MUST BE A **LOGICAL EXPLANATION!!**

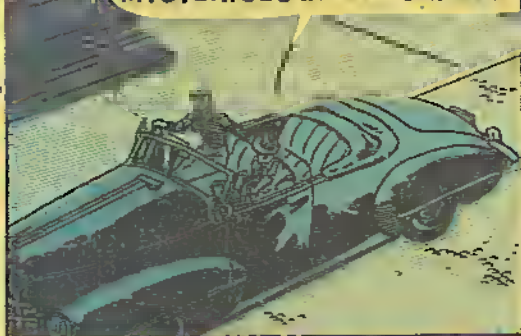
I'M LEAVING A GUARD IN THE TOWN.... IF YOU TURN UP ANYTHING, LET ME KNOW, GOOD DAY, MISS LANE!!



THAT NIGHT, AFTER WEARY HOURS OF FRUITLESS SEARCHING IN CHANVILLE, WESTON AND MARGO RETURN TO SMITHTON....

FOR ALL **WE'VE** LEARNED, INSPECTOR, WE MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE **STAYED HERE** IN SMITHTON ALL DAY!

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE, MARGO!! I WONDER WHAT LAMONT FOUND OUT AFTER HIS **MYSTERIOUS INVESTIGATION?**

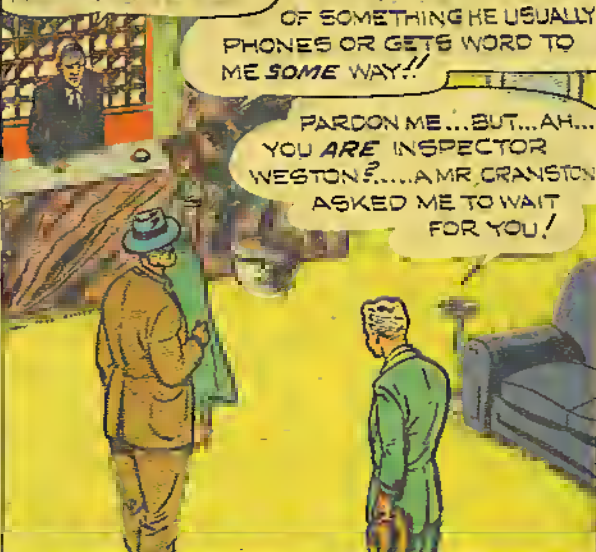


YES?... WHERE IS HE? AFTER YOU LEFT WHAT DID HE SAY? THIS MORNING, I HEARD HIM ASKING WHERE HE COULD RENT A CAR... I WASN'T USING MINE, SO I OFFERED IT TO HIM....



NO, MR CRANSTON HASN'T RETURNED!

THAT'S **ODD!!** WHEN LAMONT IS ON THE TRAIL OF SOMETHING HE USUALLY PHONES OR GETS WORD TO ME **SOME WAY!!**



PARDON ME... BUT... AH... YOU **ARE** INSPECTOR WESTON?... A MR. CRANSTON ASKED ME TO WAIT FOR YOU!

AND THEN?... HE CALLED ME AT THE HOTEL AT FIVE AND TOLD ME HE WAS STRANDED IN A SMALL UNCHARTED VILLAGE IN THE HILLS WHICH I'M FAMILIAR WITH.... SO I OFFERED TO BRING YOU TO HIM....



NOW LET'S GO BACK AND FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO LAMONT CRANSTON WHEN THE LIGHT BALL WITH THE SMILING FACE IN THE CENTER SUDDENLY FLASHED IN HIS FACE FROM BELOW.....

COME, LAMONT CRANSTON... I.....
COME TO ME....COME...COME... I'VE
COME..... L..LOST

CONTROL....
CAN'T FIGHT IT....
C...COMPELLING ME!!



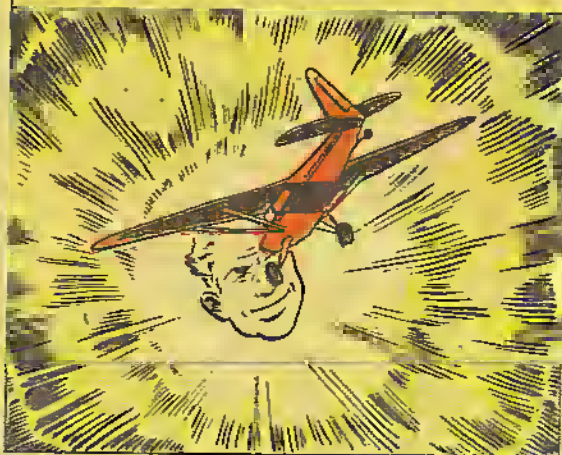
WITHIN LAMONT, A TERRIBLE BATTLE IS WAGING AS HE TRIES TO OVERCOME THE FORCE THAT HAS GRIPPED HIM.....
HYPNOTIZED HIM.....



IF I COULD ONLY! WILL MY EYES CLOSED
JUST FOR A **SECOND**.....IF.....IF.....

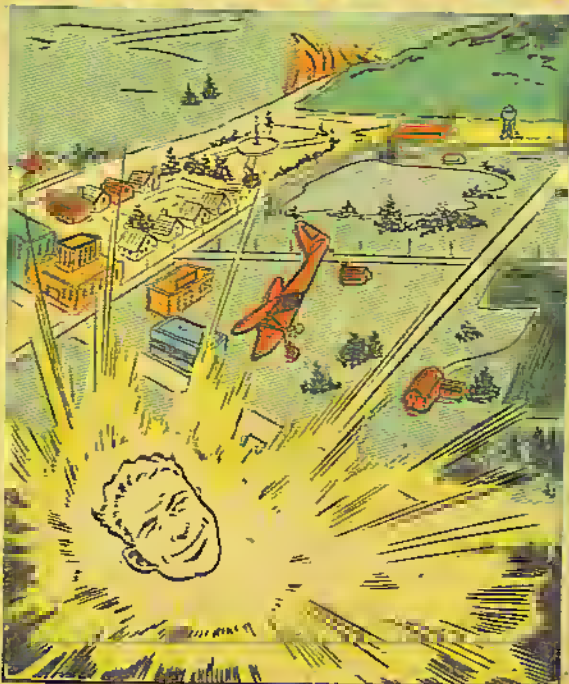


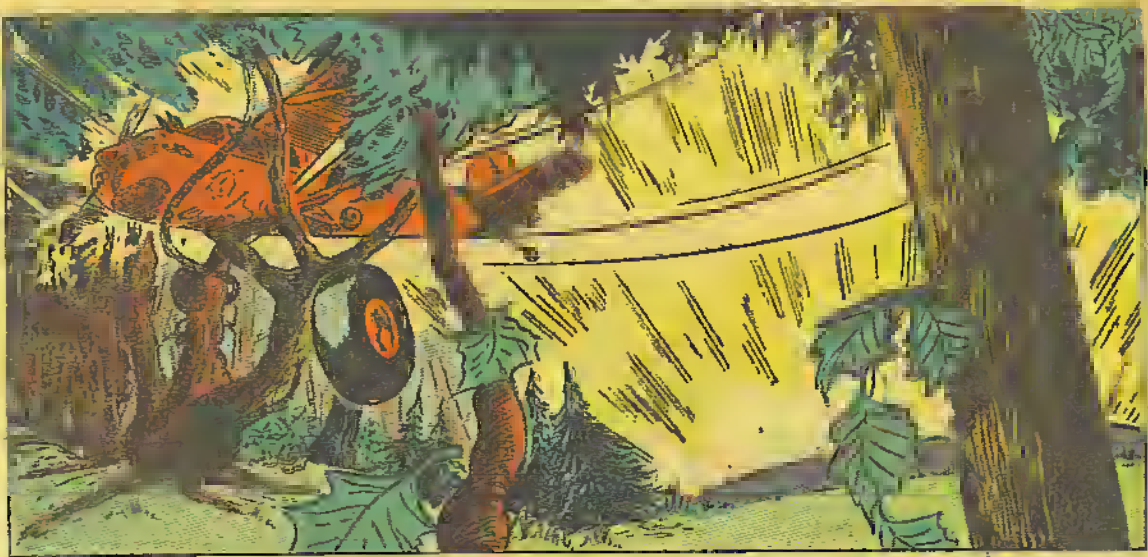
EVER FALLING NEARER TO HIS DEATH IN
THE CENTER OF THE BALL OF LIGHT,
LAMONT CONTINUES HIS BATTLE.....



THE NEXT INSTANT, LAMONT'S TERRIFIC
WILL OVERCOMES THE HYPNOSIS OF THE
LIGHT AND THE SMILING FACE.....

TOO LATE!... I'M GOING
TO CRASH!!





THE STRANGE LOOKING MEN RUSH TO HIS AID.....

IF HE'S ALIVE, TREAT HIM
GENTLY, DEAR FRIEND.....
THE **SUPREME ONE**
WILL WANT TO
SEE HIM!!

BE SURE WE WILL,
DEAR COMRADE.. **VERY**
GENTLY....



IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!

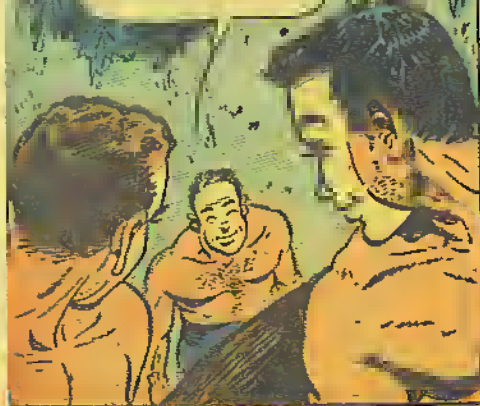
ABSOLUTELY!!

WHAT IS IT,
DEAR COMRADES?
SPEAK!!



HE IS GONE! THE PLANE IS
EMPTY!

TSK-TSK...
DESCEND DEAR COMRADES,
WE MUST REPORT TO THE
SUPREME ONE!



EVEN IF THE
THREE SMILING
FACES SHOULD
SUDDENLY TURN
THEY WOULD NOT
BE ABLE TO

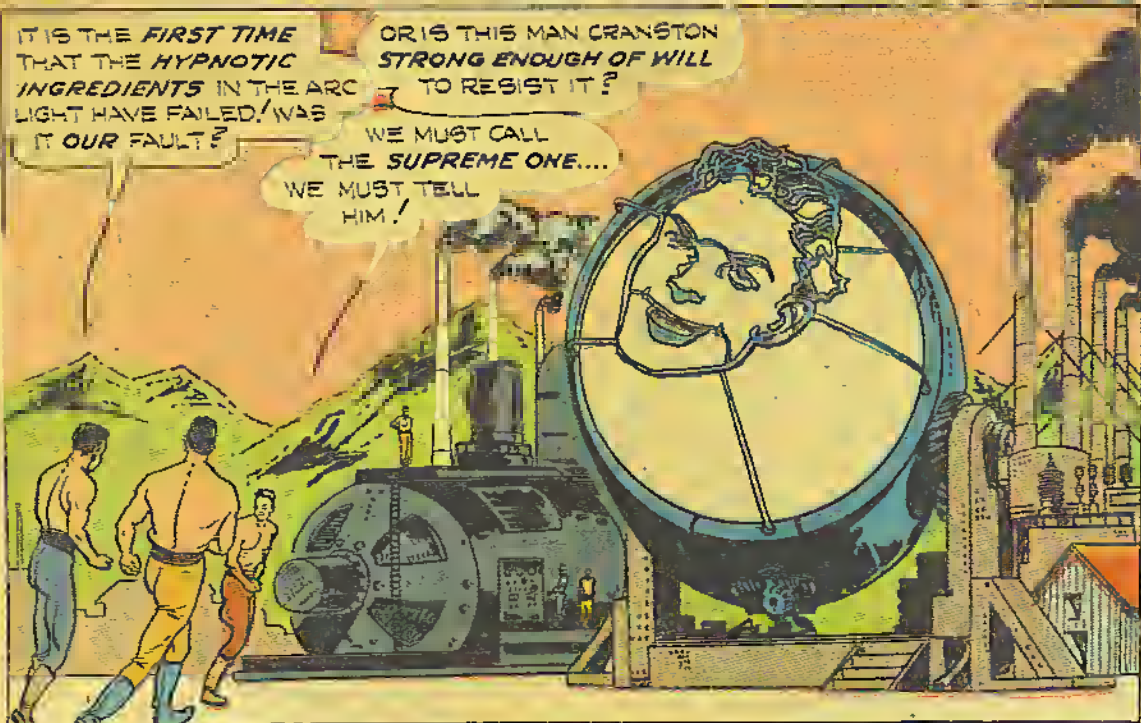
SEE THE MEN'S FIGURE WHO FOLLOWING
THEM....FOR LAMONT CRANSTON HAS BECOME
THE SHADOW.....



IT IS THE *FIRST TIME*
THAT THE *HYPNOTIC*
INGREDIENTS IN THE ARC
LIGHT HAVE FAILED! WAS
IT *OUR FAULT*?

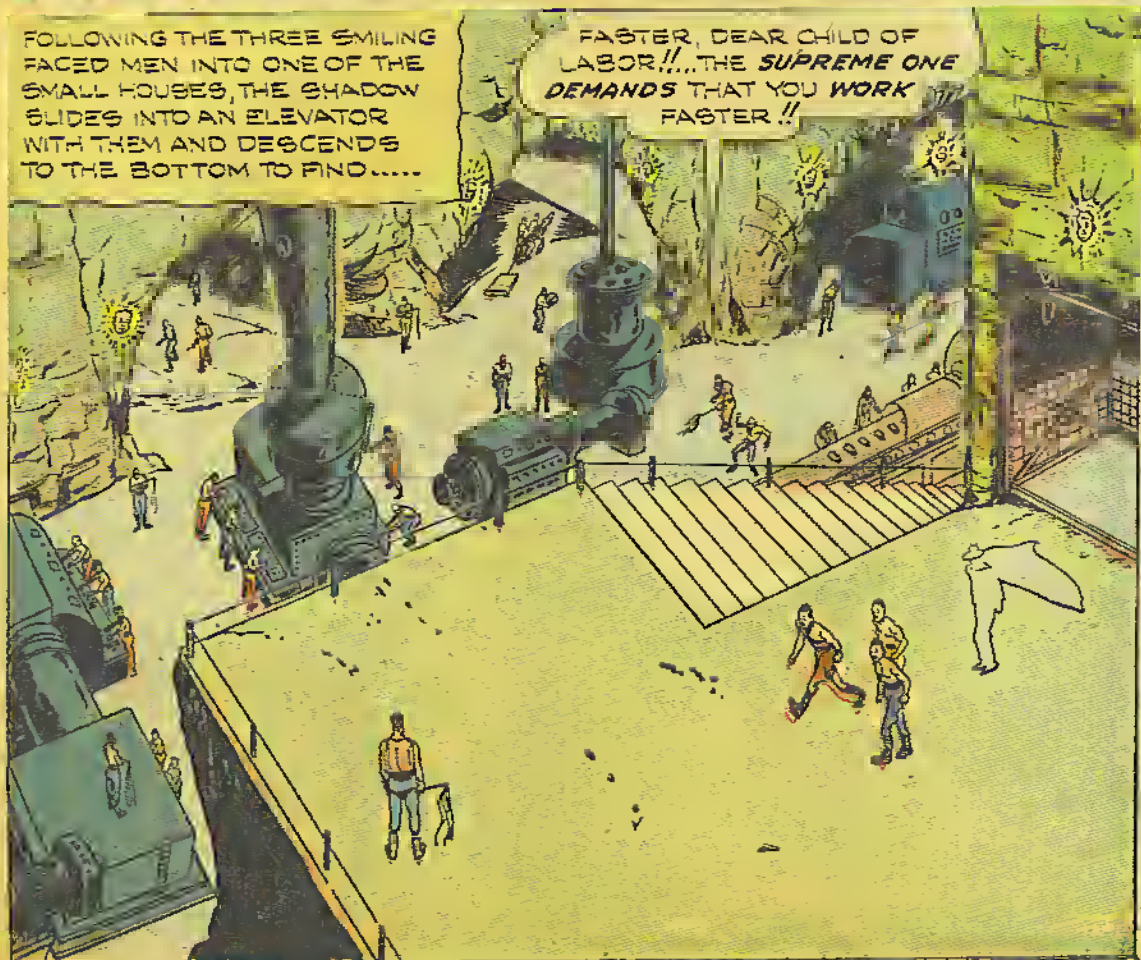
OR IS THIS MAN CRANSTON
STRONG ENOUGH OF WILL
TO RESIST IT?

WE MUST CALL
THE *SUPREME ONE*....
WE MUST TELL
HIM!



FOLLOWING THE THREE SMILING
FACED MEN INTO ONE OF THE
SMALL HOUSES, THE SHADOW
SLIDES INTO AN ELEVATOR
WITH THEM AND DESCENDS
TO THE BOTTOM TO FIND.....

FASTER, DEAR CHILD OF
LABOR!!!...THE *SUPREME ONE*
DEMANDS THAT YOU *WORK*
FASTER !!



PROTECTING HIS EYES FROM THE HYPNOTIZING LIGHT, THE SHADOW FOLLOWS THE THREE LEADERS INTO AN OFFICE....

HELLO.... **SUPREME ONE?**....YES....WE BROUGHT THE PLANE DOWN.... BUT HE **ESCAPED**....THERE IS **NO TRACE** OF HIM!!



WHAT?...YOU...YOU'RE SURE, OH MOST SUPREME ONE?... THIS.... THIS LAMONT CRANSTON IS...IS...YOU THINK HE IS THE **SHADOW?**

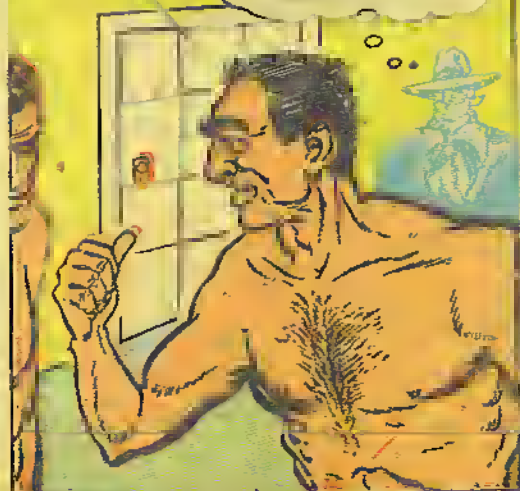


YES, SUPREME ONE... WE'LL THROW A GUARD AROUND THE **ELECTRIC GENERATOR**... I KNOW... ONCE THE ELECTRICITY IS CUT OFF AND THE **HYPNOTIC ARC LAMPS** GO OUT.... **THE SLAVES WILL REVOLT**.... YES... YES... WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, **SUPREME ONE**.



GET TO THE GENERATOR!! PLAYING RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!!
THROW A **GUARD** AROUND IT!!

GOING TO LEAD ME RIGHT TO THE GENERATOR!!



NO...WAIT!...THE SHADOW MIGHT BE IN THIS VERY ROOM!!! WE COULDN'T SEE HIM!!! HE WOULD JUST FOLLOW YOU AND IT WOULD BE ALL OVER!!

WHAT?!!

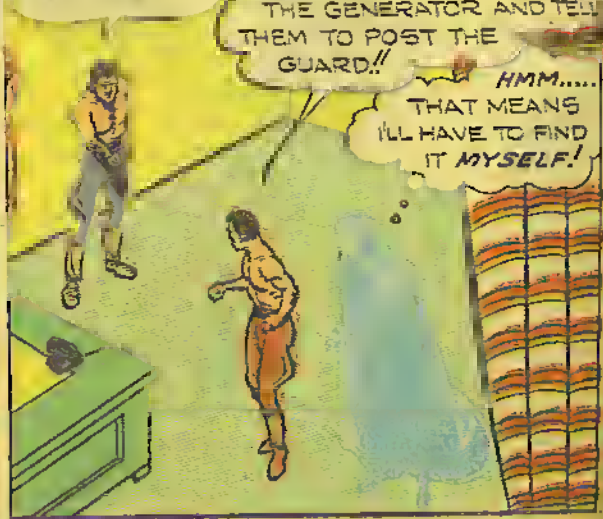
THAT'S RIGHT!!

YOU'D BETTER CALL

THE GENERATOR AND TELL THEM TO POST THE GUARD!!

HMM....

THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO FIND IT MYSELF!



NOW...SEVERAL HOURS LATER AS THE SMILING MAN BRINGS INSPECTOR WESTON AND MARGO TO THEIR "RENDEVOUS" WITH LAMONT....

THIS IS THE PLACE, ISN'T IT...
EHE?...STRANGE...
LOOKING!!

ODD PEOPLE
LIVE HERE....
NOW IF YOU'LL
JUST FOLLOW ME!!



AND AT THAT MOMENT....

I'VE FOUND IT!..I'VE GOT TO
BREAK THROUGH....HERE....
GOES NOTHING...AND...
EVERYTHING!



I...I CAN'T SEE HIM....
BUT I'VE GOT HIM!...
UGH....

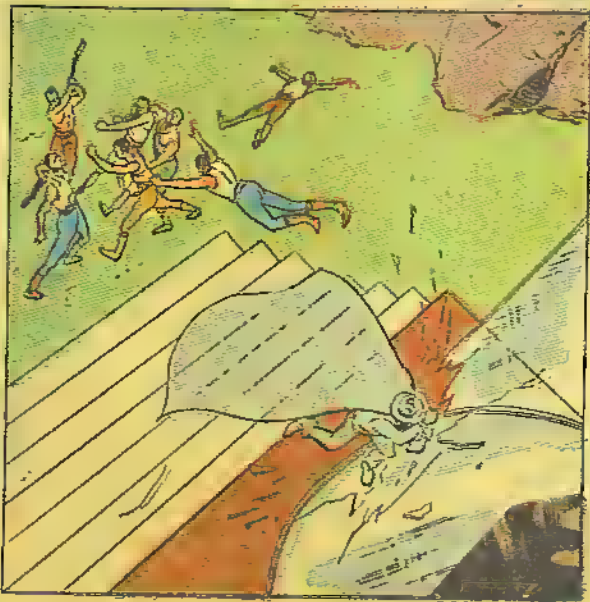
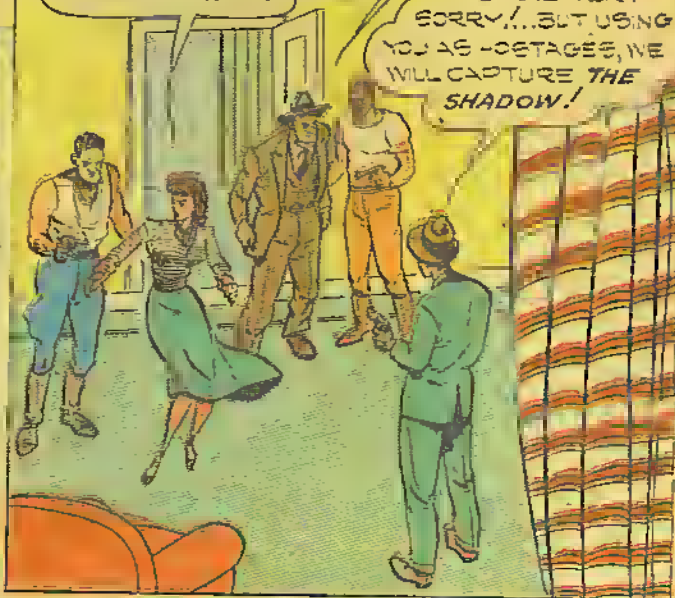
YOU'VE GOT A
HANDFUL OF
STARS, BUB!!



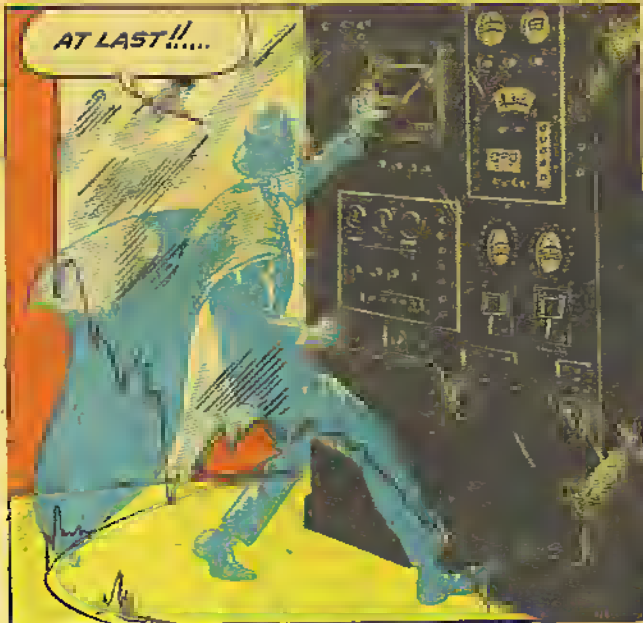
IT'S JUST LIKE LAMONT TO GET
HIMSELF STRANDED IN A
FUNNY LOOKING PLACE
SUCH AS.... OH!

ULP! WHAT IN THE
BLAZES??!

WE ARE VERY
SORRY!...BUT USING
YOU AS HOSTAGES, WE
WILL CAPTURE THE
SHADOW!



AT LAST!!!!



THE NEXT INSTANT, EVERY CHAMBER OF THE LABRYNTH OF CAVES IS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS.... THE SLAVES, FREED OF THE HYPNOTIC LIGHT, TURN ON THEIR CAPTORS WITH ALL THEIR PENT UP FURY AND VENTRECE!

KILL HIM!! KILL THEM ALL! AT LAST, WE'RE FREE!

LET ME AT HIM!!



AND THAT'S THAT!!!

LISTEN...THE SLAVES... THEY'RE FREE! MARGO!... NOW'S OUR CHANCE!

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

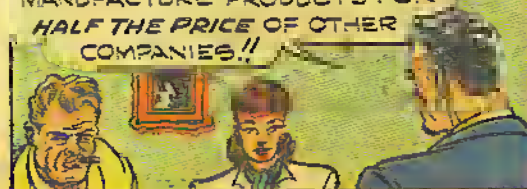


THIS.....SHOULD TAKE UGHHH! THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE!!



LATER THAT EVENING, BACK AT THE HOTEL IN SMITHTON, AFTER TELLING OF HIS ADVENTURE AND HOW HE FREED THE SLAVES, LAMONT EXPLAINS WHAT HE HAD DISCOVERED REGARDING THE LEAGUE OF SMILING MEN...

THE SUPREME ONE WAS A BRILLIANT CHEMIST WHO DISCOVERED THIS HYPNOTIC INGREDIENT WHICH VIBRATES LIGHT IN SUCH A WAY THAT A PERSON LOSES ALL CONTROL...HE MOUNTED IT ON A LARGE DIRIGIBLE AND FLEW OVER THE TOWNS, FLOODING THEM WITH LIGHT, HE LEAD THE PEOPLE TO THESE NATURAL CAVES AND WAS ABLE TO MANUFACTURE PRODUCTS FOR HALF THE PRICE OF OTHER COMPANIES!!



WITH SLAVE LABOR... FIRST, UNDER HYPNOSIS ONE LAST QUESTION!! IT IS NECESSARY THAT WHY THE SMILING THE SUBJECTS HAVE FACES? NO FEAR...THE KIND SMILING FACE INSPIRED CONFIDENCE....

SECOND THEY WERE MASKS WHICH FILTER'D THE LIGHT AND MADE THE WEARERS INVULNERABLE TO IT! SO END THE CASE OF

THE LEAGUE OF SMILING MEN!!! WHO AREN'T SMILING ANY MORE!



THE HOT STOVE LEAGUE WITH THORNTON FISHER

THE LONGEST BASEBALL GAME
I EVER WITNESSED—IN FACT
IT PROVED TO BE THE LONGEST
GAME EVER PLAYED IN
MAJOR LEAGUE HISTORY—



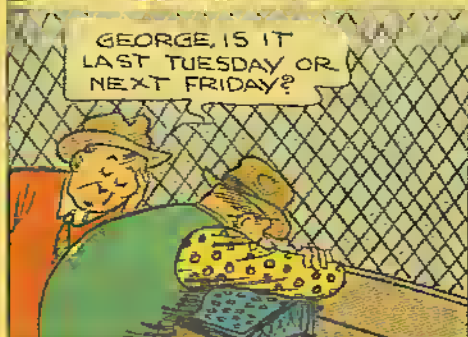
IT WAS A
TERRIFIC
PITCHING
DUEL



THE DATE WAS MAY 1, 1920—PLACE;
BOSTON—THE TEAMS; THE DODGERS
AND THE BRAVES—THE PITCHERS WERE
BOTH RIGHTHANDERS, LEON CADORE,
BROOKLYN, AND JOE OESCHGER, BOSTON—
EACH FOUGHT TO THE END OF THE
GAME—26 INNINGS

IN THE 5TH INNING BROOKLYN GOT ONE RUN—
BOSTON GATHERED A RUN IN THE 6TH—THE
SCORE WAS TIED—AND STAYED THAT WAY—

STRIKE 22
BALL 64—



GEORGE, IS IT
LAST TUESDAY OR
NEXT FRIDAY?



OUT!
SAFE!
OUT!
SAFE!

ABOUT THE 15TH INNING THE SPORTS
WRITERS IN THE "MONKEY CAGE"
(THE PRESS BOX) BEGAN TO GO
TO SLEEP—

THE UMPIRES, BOB HART AND BARRY MCCORMICK,
WERE, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, OUT ON
THEIR FEET—



"BIG ED" KONETCHY, 1ST BASE, IVAN OLSON, 2ND
BASE, ZACK WHEAT, LEFT FIELD, WERE DODGER
STARS—"RABBIT" MARANVILLE AND "HANK"
GOWDY WERE BOSTON'S PRIMA DONNAS—
NIGHT FELL—DODGERS 1—BOSTON 1—



THAT YEAR (1920) BROOKLYN, UNDER WILBERT
ROBINSON, WON THE N.L. FLAG—BOSTON FINISHED 7TH
CLEVELAND CRASHED THE A.L. CHAMPIONSHIP
AND WON THE WORLD'S SERIES—

Shadow comics

Harold Schwartz—Editor

CRIME DOES NOT PAY

C. Hunter Diringer—Art Editor

MURDER IN THE BALANCE

"There they were," Nick Carter said to the members of the Inner Circle, "eight coins. Eight half dollars all looking exactly alike, but for an identifying mark scratched in the surface. The marks were initials. Men's initials. All I knew was that one of the eight coins was counterfeit, and was lighter than the others.

If we could identify which coin was the fake we would have a pretty good idea of who had killed Jonas.

"There was a fire raging not three miles away and all the rangers were champing at the bit to be away and at their real job of fire fighting.

"Picture the scene," Nick said, and the members did as he made it come alive by words, "a lonely cabin, a corpse in the middle of the floor, the dagger which had killed him sticking out of the center of his back.

"Add to that the men in the cabin anxious to be out and working and the scale in the center of a table near the corpse. Ranged in a line next to the scale were the coins.

"Deadly coins, for one could put the finger on a ruthless killer! Hidden away in that forest the dead ranger, Jonas, had found a counterfeiter hard at work in a cave. He had arrested the man and confiscated some of the coins which the counterfeiter had been making. They were half dollars.

"Jonas had brought the counterfeiter back to his cabin and sent out a call for the police. He was a forest ranger; he could not leave the forest until he was relieved. He had figured on holding the counterfeiter till the police had arrived.

"But the counterfeiter was smart and cunning. He killed the ranger and then, hearing sounds that presaged the coming of some men he had hastily donned one of Jonas' extra

uniforms. That done he raced out the back door of the cabin and joined the men who had come to the cabin. They happened to be rangers who had met on the way to the forest fire and had come to Jonas's cabin in order to use his radio.

"I got there before the police and found the eight rangers, all dressed in identical uniforms, all proud of their uniforms and all held together by morale, by belief in anyone wearing the same uniform that they wore.

"They wouldn't point out who the stranger was, for, for all they knew he might be a real ranger whom they just didn't happen to know.

"I could understand the way they felt even while it exasperated me. I looked over the scene of the crime and made certain deductions. I will give you the picture and see what you make of it."

Nick paused in his talk and cleared his throat. "We have been working, as you remember, on the idea of three clues. If you get the first clue, you have enough evidence for the police to arrest the killer. Two clues, means that the district attorney has enough evidence to present his case to a jury and three clues means a sure conviction. Right?"

"Very well then, on the surface it was a cinch. The motive was clear. The counterfeiter had killed in order to keep his identity secret. So, we have clue number one, the motive. Second, the method was clear, stabbing. And to make the third clue clear the killer had dropped a half dollar near the body of his victim.

"All I had to do was find out who had dropped the half dollar which I weighed on a scale and found to be lighter than a real half.

"By a strange coincidence, one of those things which does help the side of law and order once in a while, none of the eight men in the cabin had more than one half in his

possession. I was banking on the hope that since the counterfeiter had dropped one fake that the other which he happened to have would also be a fake and therefor lighter than the other seven halves.

"I had asked each of the men to scratch his initials on his coin, while I watched the process so there could be no hocus pocus about this.

"They had all agreed and so I reached the point where the eight coins were in a row next to the scales I had used to weigh the coin found next to the dead man.

"I divided the coins and weighed a group in one pan against a group in the other pan. One group was heavier than the other so I discarded the heavy group.

"This left the light group. I divided them again and weighed them. One side was lighter than the other. I reached forward towards the scales and just as I did so a bullet whanged through the base of the scales destroying it utterly!

"So much attention had been focussed on the weighing process that I had no idea where the bullet had come from. I looked up. There was the ring of men surrounding me, all looking at each other.

"The killer had snapped a shot at the scales knowing that he would be given away as soon as I found the light coin. He had drawn and fired and replaced his gun all in one motion. What made it bad was that I had made them all discard their guns in a stack on a chair. We could not be sure who had grabbed the gun from the chair and shot and replaced the gun!"

"One of the rangers spoke up and said, 'Now we're in a worse fix than ever. The scales are broken; you can't continue the weighing to find out who owns the coin . . . we don't know who fired the shot, now can you determine who the killer is?' That seemed like a puzzler and yet it wasn't, for the killer had miscalculated."

Beef said slowly, "I see how he figured . . . but not what was wrong with his figuring. There were eight coins. You had weighed them twice. The killer knew you had to weigh them once more to find the light coin. He

waited till the last second hoping something would happen to give him a break and then, he grabbed the gun and shot the scale. I think he figured right."

"That was exactly his reasoning," Nick agreed. "If he'd been right I would have had to let all the eight rangers go to fight the fire rather than keep them there and risk the fire spreading. I would have let the killer get away rather than risk the common good. But as it happened the killer was wrong and so I was able to pick out the light coin and hold it up so all the rangers could see the man's, the killer's initials scratched on it."

Nick said, "The rangers tied up the killer and left. Now, your problem is this. Can you weigh eight coins on a scale with no weights, that is, just using the coins to balance against each other, and still in two weighings find which of the eight coins is lighter than the others?

Can you deduce the answer? If you can't read next month's Inner Circle.

SOLUTION TO TOAST TO DEATH

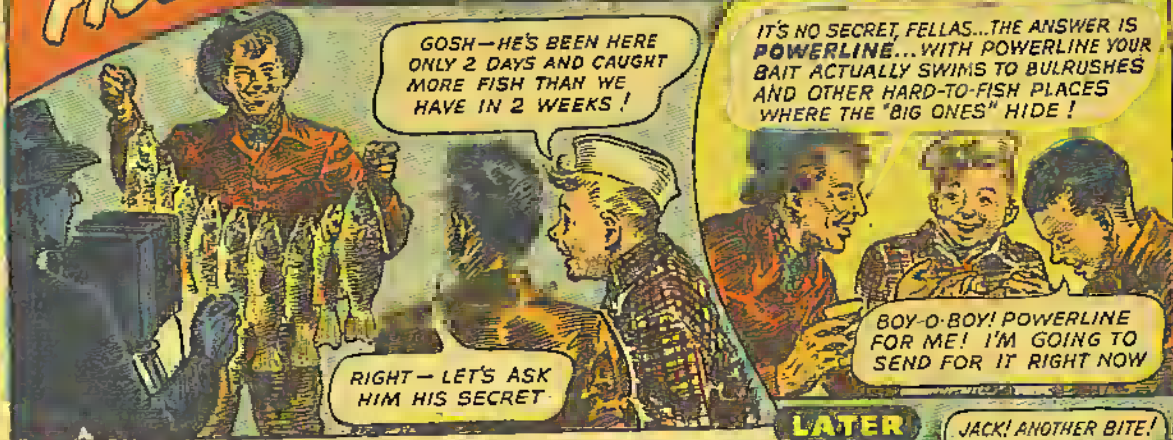
The problem in the last Inner Circle was why the killer took a drink of arsenic himself at the same time that he gave a deadly drink to the man he poisoned. Nick said at the time that the explanation was involved with why he, Nick Carter, took some of the killer's hair and his finger nails.

The reason for taking the hair and finger-nails was so that Nick could have them examined chemically. Arsenic, if taken over a long period shows up in the ends of the hair and in the finger and toe nails. Traces of arsenic were present in the killer's hair and nails.

Therefore, Nick reasoned, the killer had been taking little non-lethal doses of arsenic over a long period of time, perhaps six months, in order to build up a tolerance to the poison.

This allowed the killer to take a deadly dose of the arsenic without dying. The murderer figured this would make it look as if he couldn't be the killer and would provide him with an alibi . . . and it might have if Nick Carter hadn't been on the job!

FISHERMEN Amazing New Invention Helps CATCH MORE FISH!



IT'S NO SECRET, FELLAS...THE ANSWER IS **POWERLINE**...WITH **POWERLINE** YOUR BAIT ACTUALLY SWIMS TO BULRUSHES AND OTHER HARD-TO-FISH PLACES WHERE THE "BIG ONES" HIDE!

BOY-O-BOY! **POWERLINE** FOR ME! I'M GOING TO SEND FOR IT RIGHT NOW

LATER

JACK! ANOTHER BITE! GEE—THIS **POWERLINE** SURE IS WONDERFUL

YEAH—AN WITH **POWERLINE** AND THE LUMINOUS BAIT WE CAN CATCH 'EM AT NIGHT, TOO

WHAT BEAUTIES! NO MORE FISHLESS DAYS FOR US—THANKS TO **POWERLINE**!

IT'S JUST AMAZING!

SOME SPORT!

Use **Powerline** and fish even at night where the big ones hide
No Boat—No Reel—No Special Bait

It's now easy to fish as far as 100 FEET from shore! No boat, no reel, no special bait necessary. **POWERLINE** does all the work. It hooks the "big ones"! Use any bait. Easy to use. No shadow scare, noiseless. You have complete control of line at all times. "Tease." Move back and forward. **POWERLINE** goes where you want it... in weeds, bull-rushes, under trees. No fuss, no bother, no tangles. You can't miss with **POWERLINE**. Introductory offer includes amazing new **POWERLINE** with full instructions plus Fishing Guide Booklet. If you order NOW,

Extra BONUS If You Write Today!

If you order NOW, we will include at no additional cost an 84 Foot Cutty Hunk Type Line and Luminous Float. Yes, the same high-test Cutty Hunk Type Line used by fishermen all over the country. The Luminous Float clearly flashes signals at night.

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SEND NO MONEY

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Just mail coupon. Amazing new **POWERLINE** with full instructions plus 84 feet of Cutty Hunk Type Line and Luminous Float will be sent on approval. On arrival pay postman only \$1.98 plus C.O.D. postage. Use for 10 days. If not completely satisfied return and money back. Limited Supply. Cash orders sent prepaid. Order TODAY!

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Dept. 1519, Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

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Grand Rapids 2, Michigan**

Rush me my **POWERLINE** complete with instructions plus Fishing Guide Booklet. Also send my Cutty Hunk Type Line and Luminous Float, at no extra cost, for prompt action. I will pay postman on arrival \$1.98 plus C.O.D. postage. If I am not completely satisfied after 10 days I can return and get money back. (Send cash and **POWERLINE** pays postage.)

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